4.2 South Central Alaska

4.2.1 Anchorage/Matsu

Communities

Anchorage	Palmer
Eagle River	Skwentna
Chugiak	Wasilla
Girdwood	Willow

Geographic Location

The Anchorage and Matsu area includes the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and the Anchorage Borough. The profiled communities in this sub-region are for the most part all located within about an hour travel by car of the metropolis of Anchorage, which has made this one of the fastest growing regions in the state. This sub-region is situated at approximately 61 °North Lat. -149 ° West Long. The Matanuska-Susitna area is made up of thriving valley farmlands, whereas the Anchorage Borough encompasses the largest city in Alaska with a total of 260,283 inhabitants in 2000, approximately 42% of the population of entire state of Alaska. Many of the communities are located off Cook Inlet; however, some are located more inland in the lush agricultural countryside.

Weather

The weather in the Anchorage/Matsu sub-region varies quite a bit between those communities located near or on the water and those communities further inland. The inland communities (Palmer, Skwentna, Wasilla, and Willow) have extreme temperatures during the winter months, ranging from -30 to 5° F in January. Willow is very extreme in terms of snowfall, ranging between 48 to 150 inches per year and Skwentna has a higher average with 70 inches of snow per year. The other inland communities average about 50 inches of snow per year, about 16.5 inches of rainfall, and the temperatures in the summer range from about 37 to 85° F. Coastal communities in the sub-region include Anchorage, Eagle River-Chugiak, and Girdwood, and their winter temperatures range from about 8 to 21° F, whereas their temperature in July ranges from about 51 to 65° F. The total average annual rainfall is approximately 15.9 inches in both Anchorage and Eagle River-Chugiak, and Girdwood averages about 80 inches per year. The average snowfall is approximately 69 inches for all of these water-bordering communities.

General Characterization

The area was historically occupied by Tanaina Indians, an Athabascan Native group, however today the Native population is very low in comparison to other areas in Alaska. A total of 10.40% of the population was Alaska Native or American Indian in Anchorage in 2000, and 8.60% of the population in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough overall. In 2000, Matsu was the fastest growing area in the state according to the Alaska State Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and this growth has been mainly attributed to Matsu's proximity to the state's largest city of Anchorage. The metropolis of Anchorage accounts for about 81.4% of the population of the Anchorage/Matsu area and is the center of commerce for the entire state. The population of Anchorage includes the populations for Eagle River-Chugiak and Girdwood as reported by the 2000 U.S. Census. The populations of the other communities in the area range from 111 persons in Skwentna to 5,469 inhabitants in Wasilla at the time of the Census.

The economy of Anchorage is one of an urban area including the headquarters of many agencies, businesses, and industries. The communities of Palmer and Wasilla have strong agricultural histories and also support other industries. The economy of Willow, for instance, is based heavily on tourism from the local ski resort. Employment in Skwentna is for the most part available at the community store or school. All the profiled communities are tied to the commercial fishing sector, although Anchorage provides the lion's share of the commercial fishing fleet and crew members, residents of the state of Alaska.

Institutional Framework

There are two boroughs in this sub-region: the Municipality of Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The communities in this sub-region have varying types of city governments ranging from Anchorage's status of Unified Home Rule Municipality to Willow which is unincorporated.

The communities in this region were not included in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and are not federally recognized as Native villages. However, because Anchorage is the main commercial center of the state, many Native regional corporations, Native village corporations, non-profits, community development quota organizations, economic development organizations, and regional health corporations have their headquarters or an external office located in the city.

Commercial, Sport, and Subsistence Fisheries

The Anchorage/Matsu sub-region is intimately linked to both commercial and sport fishing industries. Many commercial permits are issued to its residents and many sport fishing licenses are sold annually. Information on subsistence, on the other hand, is not readily available for the most part because almost all of these communities are considered to be urban, and thus are not legally entitled to engage in subsistence harvests on federal land.

Anchorage is one of the main centers for commercial fishing in the state, providing a large amount of support services and businesses, many processing plants, the largest fleet in the state, a large number of resident crew members, and a large amount of permit holders in various fisheries. In the sub-region of Anchorage/Matsu, the main fisheries, in terms of number of permit-holders, were salmon. Other participation included halibut, groundfish, herring, a smaller amount of crab permits, and other shellfish permits.

An extremely large number of sport fishing licenses were sold in the sub-region in 2000, with 98,516 sold in the city of Anchorage alone. Some of these licenses could have been purchased by tourists on their way to their final sport fishing destination, as most flights coming into the state pass through Anchorage, and no distinction is made in the records of permits sold in this regard. In addition there are many sport fishing guide businesses in operation within the communities, especially in Anchorage where there were 124 saltwater guide and 14 freshwater guide businesses in 2000.

Almost all of the communities profiled in the sub-region were considered urban areas and not able to engage in subsistence activities on federal land, as mentioned above. Due to this, little evidence of subsistence was available except for information regarding salmon subsistence permits. The number of subsistence salmon permits is comparatively low for the area, but frequently subsistence activity in urban settings can be disguised as sport fishing.

Regional Challenges

Because of the high number of permits issued to residents for salmon, it is probable that many have been adversely affected by the recent falling salmon prices attributed to the expansion of aquaculture fish industries in other nations. Although no federal salmon disaster funds were allotted to the profiled communities in this region, it is likely that those who hold permits for salmon in the Anchorage/Matsu area have been affected. A city such as Anchorage may not demonstrate the devastating effects of falling salmon prices seen elsewhere because it has a larger budget and a robust tax base. However, the impacts on individuals may be significant.

Anchorage Municipality

(including Eagle River-Chugiak and Girdwood)
(return to communities)

People and Place

Location

The 1975 constitution of the Anchorage municipality subsumed a myriad of small towns and neighborhoods under a single governmental entity. This profile of the Anchorage municipality includes the city of Anchorage as well as the towns of Eagle River and Girdwood. This structure is appropriated to the current administrative structure of the area and the availability of data. Although these three communities are distinct, important socio-economic indicators are consolidated for the entire municipality without recognition of its internal heterogeneity

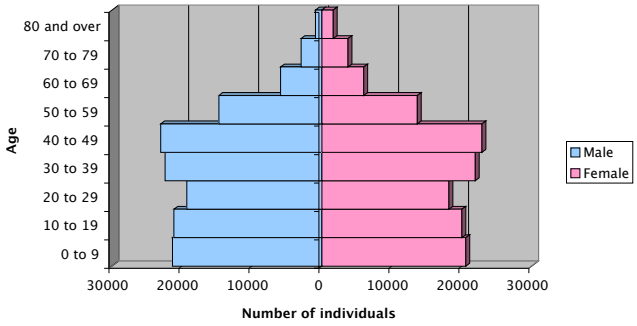
The city of Anchorage, the main urban center of the state of Alaska, encompasses 1.25 million acres, lying between the two northern arms of Cook Inlet. Girdwood, located on the Turnagain Arm, in the southern branch of Cook Inlet, is located 35 miles southwest of downtown Anchorage, on the way to Seward on the Kenai Peninsula. Eagle River and its administratively associated neighboring communities, Chugiak, Birchwood, Peters Creek and Thunderbird Falls, lie either farther north or near the southern shore of the Knik Arm.

There are several challenges presented by the task of summarizing the Anchorage municipality with an eye to the fishing engagement of the city. The group of communities consolidated under this administrative category is far from homogeneous. This profile attempts to characterize this specific administrative area while, at the same time, to offer a good description of the distinctive socio-economic elements of these three communities.

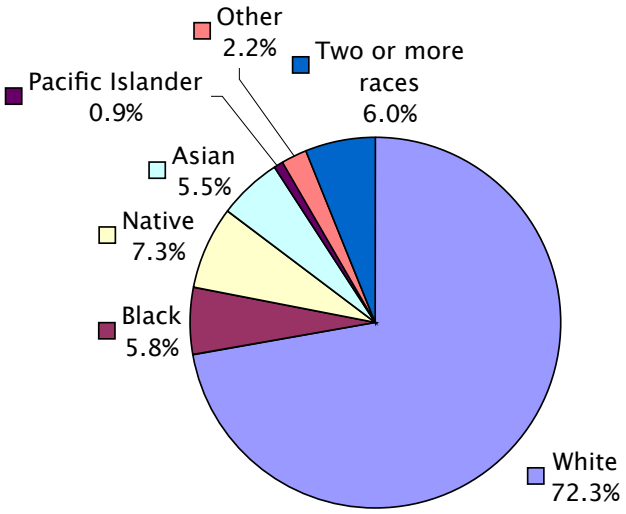
Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the Anchorage municipality held the majority of the population of Alaska: 269,070 inhabitants, 29,896 of which lived in the Eagle River-Chugiak area and 1,817 in Girdwood. Across this area, 97.3% of the population lived in households, while 2.7% lived in group quarters. This 2.7% was composed of military personnel, institutionalized individuals, and people employed seasonally by the fishing industry. According to Census

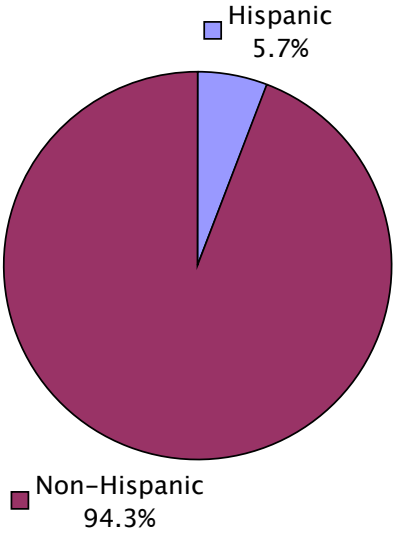
2000 Population Structure
Anchorage Municipality
Data source: US Census



2000 Racial Structure
Anchorage Municipality
Data source: US Census



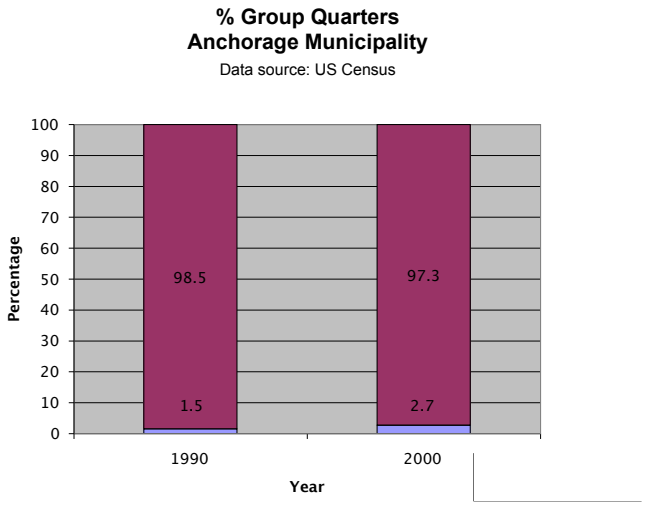
2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Anchorage Municipality
Data source: US Census

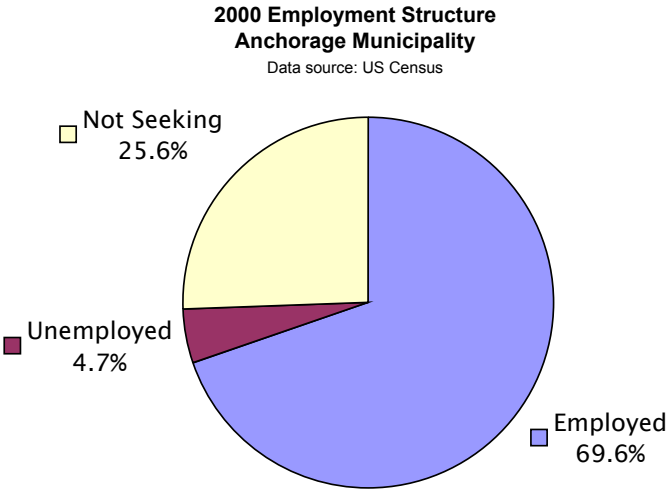


data, 7.3% of the population identified as Native Alaskan or American Indian, 72.2% White, 5.8% Black, 5.5% Asian, 0.9% Pacific Islander, 2.2% other, and 6% identified with two or more races. A total of 10.4% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. Finally, 5.7% of the population identified themselves Hispanic.

The gender composition of the Anchorage municipality was fairly balanced: 49.4% female versus 50.6% of male. These percentages presented an important difference from most Alaskan communities characterized by an overwhelmingly male presence. This differential element may be attributed to the area's urban character. Girdwood, the smallest of these nuclei, significantly differs from the urban pattern, with 57.1% male versus 42.9% female, probably due to a rural demographic model with high levels of seasonal productivity (tourism and fishing). The median age in Anchorage is 32.4 years, slightly young in relation to the national median of 35.3 years in 2000, but not as young as many rural communities. The age structure in Anchorage did not substantially differ from the national average age structure.

Finally, 90.3% of the population of the Anchorage municipality had graduated from high school or gone on to higher schooling, 28.9% held a bachelor's degree or higher, and 9.7% of the population age 25 years and over never graduated from high school.





History

The municipality of Anchorage stands on the Athabascan lands. The Tanaina Indians, the only coastal Athabascan group, used to live around the shoreline of Cook Inlet. Coastal Athabascans, due to the marine environment that they were occupying, shared more similarities with their Eskimo and Aleut neighbors than any of the other Athabascan groups.

The history of Anchorage and its surrounding areas is exemplary of the way in which most of Alaska developed: through cyclical booms. First, the discovery of gold in 1887 and in the interior in 1922 sparked development in the area. Initially, Anchorage was the midpoint headquarters of the federal railroad that connected Seward, 126 miles to the south, with Fairbanks, and the coal and gold fields of the interior, 358 miles north. The work started in 1914 and by 1915 Anchorage was a "tent city" on the banks of Ship Creek near the edge of present downtown. Soon the urban space was reorganized through territorial reorganization and the city was incorporated in 1920.

The next wave of development in the mid-1900s was military driven. The threat of Japanese invasion during WWII, and pressure from the Soviet Union during the Cold War, fostered investments in the city's infrastructure, contributing to the growth of Anchorage.

The next period of growth began in 1964 after the partial destruction of the city due to a massive earthquake. The reconstruction and subsequent blossoming as a modern city was fueled by the enormous amount of wealth generated by the discovery and development of the oil fields in Prudhoe Bay as well as the construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. The population, office space, and housing tripled within a ten year period. The Greater Anchorage Area Borough, the seed of the current municipality, was formed in 1964. During this period the city became

a regional metropolis absorbing or connecting with neighboring towns.

In 1975, the City and Borough governments of Anchorage were unified, along with the cities of Girdwood and Glen Alps. Some of the areas subsumed into this municipality had their own character and history. Eagle River, for instance, when it was formed in 1939, was initially agricultural land populated by homesteaders. Its proximity to the big city though, has served to convert it into a suburb of Anchorage with a large percentage of its population commuting daily. Its incorporation into the municipality occurred despite important local opposition.

Girdwood, formed in 1960s, still maintains a particular character related to its special montane location. Most of its economic activities are related to snow tourism. Its history goes back to the turn of the century. The community was named for James E. Girdwood, who staked a claim at Crow Creek in 1896. The Girdwood post office was established in 1907. Girdwood became conveniently linked to two of the major economic centers of the state with the completion of the Seward Highway in 1951, linking Anchorage to the Kenai Peninsula,

Infrastructure

Current Economy

Although most economic indicators for the municipality of Anchorage are aggregated, the different communities inside its boundaries have very striking specificities. Anchorage is the center of commerce for the state. Oil and gas industries, finance and real estate, transportation, communications, and government agencies are headquartered in Anchorage. Moreover, important contingents of the populations of Girdwood and Eagle River commute daily to the city. Despite this organic connection between the micro-regional networks of communities, each of them has a specific character.

Across the area, visitor and tourist facilities and services are available answering many different needs. Girdwood has a ski resort for winter sports, and the remaining areas offer important services for summer tourism (camping, fishing, and hunting, etc.).

Seasonal factors contribute to a fluctuating, though low, unemployment rate. There is a 69.6% employment rate with 4.7% unemployment. In addition, 25.6% of the population are not working and not seeking employment. A total of 7.4% of the population lives below the poverty line. The per capita income is $25,287, while the median household income is $55,546.

Governance

The municipality of Anchorage, incorporated in 1975, is a Unified Home Rule Municipality governed through a "strong mayor" form of government with a nine-member council. Anchorage's local administration holds rights to an 8% special tax on accommodations, tobacco, and rental cars.

The city of Anchorage, as the main commercial center of the state, is also the headquarters for offices from all sorts of regional institutions related to rural development, Native Alaska issues (Community Development Quotas, corporations, rights, health and so on), commerce, communication, environment, infrastructure, fishing, education and housing. For the same reason, the closest offices of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) are located in the city.

The Chugiak-Eagle River ensemble has two representatives that sit at the nine-member council of Anchorage's municipal government. The community has jurisdiction over local parks, roads service, health, fire, police, and recreation.

Eagle River-Chugiak and Girdwood play a peripheral role in the regional institutional distribution. The proximity of the big city concentrates most of these regional governance institutions in Anchorage. Both communities, in spite of belonging to the larger municipality, have local organs of representation: the Eagle River Community Council and the Girdwood Community Council.

Facilities

Anchorage is accessible by air, road, and sea. The state-owned Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport and Lake Hood Floatplane Base, the Municipality's Merrill Field, and U.S. Army and Air Force facilities all provide plane service. Many international, national, and local companies connect the city with locations all over the state, country, and globe.

The Port of Anchorage is an impressive facility.

There are five terminal berths with 3,488 linear feet available and it handles 85% of the general cargo for the Alaska Railbelt area. The Alaska Railroad connects Anchorage to Seward, Whittier, and Fairbanks. Barge and road transport companies have their offices and facilities in the city.

The city is fully supplied with water by the Anchorage Water & Wastewater Utility, sourced at Lake Eklutna, Ship Creek Reservoir, and deep wells. The John M. Asplund Wastewater Treatment Facility provides primary treatment to liquid waste, with the remains discharged into Cook Inlet. Eagle River and Girdwood are served by tertiary treatment facilities.

Power is served in a variety of ways: it is provided to central Anchorage by Anchorage Municipal Light & Power and the privately-owned Chugach Electric Association, while Eagle River and Chugiak area of Anchorage, as well as the Matanuska-Susitna Valley, are serviced by the Matanuska Electric Association. Natural gas is an important resource as a home heating method and is provided by ENSTAR Natural Gas Company.

The municipality of Anchorage has many opportunities for education that encompasses the entire spectrum from preschool and elementary school through college and universities. Together there are 92 schools with 2,900 teachers and 49,645 students.

The municipality also has a large number of hospitals and health facilities. People from rural communities all over the state come to Anchorage to deal with serious health problems that rural facilities cannot readily handle. Special mention needs to be made of the Alaska Native Medical Center that covers health issues of Alaska Natives statewide.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Although these three communities are part of the same administrative unit and most social indicators are aggregated, there is data available related to each communities' specific involvement in commercial fisheries. This speaks loudly to the importance of this activity for the region.

a) Anchorage*

* Commercial fishing permit data given here is from the CFEC. It includes the communities of Anchorage, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Fire Island, Fort Richardson, Potter, and Spenard

The city of Anchorage plays a complex role in the Alaskan fishing industry. This large, modern city is deeply connected to the oil industry and information technologies, but also remains fundamentally connected to the fishing industry.

Four main elements explain the characteristics of the fisheries sector in Anchorage. First, it has its own coastal character and fishing grounds (Cook Inlet), with its own harbor and numerous fishing communities. Second, it is the main regional commercial port of the entire state. Third, the concentration of resources, facilities, population, and transportation has converted Anchorage into an important nexus for the fish processing industry. The commercial fleet associated with this port has a statewide range. Finally, the Anchorage offers a wide variety of support services to the industry. The administrative centers of many businesses are located in Anchorage, and important numbers of participants on the fishing industry live here part of the year.

According to official records from 2000, Anchorage had 773 commercial permit holders, holding 1,042 all-fisheries combined permits. According to the ADF&G, 1,388 of its residents were registered as crewmen (includes Girdwood and Eagle River). There were 57 federal fisheries vessel owners as well as 224 owners of salmon vessels. Anchorage's fleet was involved in most Alaskan fisheries: crab, halibut, herring, other types of groundfish, sablefish, other shellfish, and salmon. Most of the permit holders residing in Anchorage actually fish in Bristol Bay, Kodiak or Cordova. This fact is important to understand population mobility and fishing industry territorial and productive structure.

Permits are issued with specifications to species, size of the vessel, type of gear, and fishing area.

Crab: In 2000 the municipality had 35 permits to fish all types of crab (26 fished), with king crab being the most fished species. There were 20 permits for ships over 60 feet carrying pot gear (16 fished): 2 permits to fish in Dutch Harbor (one fished), 3 in the Bering Sea (2 fished), and 12 in Bristol Bay (10 fished). The remaining two permits, also for Bristol Bay waters, were held, respectively, by the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Community Development Association (APICDA) and the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (YDFDA) Community Development Quotas (CDQ). There was also one permit issued and fished for a vessel under 60 feet fishing with pot gear in Norton Sound. The second species, in terms of

numbers fished, was Tanner crab with 11 permits: 9 were issued for boats over 60 feet fishing with pot gear in the Bering Sea (8 fished). The other two permits, again, were held by the APICDA and YDFDA CDQs. The remaining species of crab that was fished by the anchorage fleet was Dungeness crab. There were four permits issued in 2000 (none fished): three permits limited to Cook Inlet for vessels over 60 feet carrying pot gear and one permit to fish in southeast waters for a vessel with 150 pots.

Halibut: One of the most important fisheries to Anchorage's fleet was halibut with 109 permits issued with statewide range (59 fished). There were 74 permits issued for longline vessels under 60 feet (40 fished), 30 permits for longline vessels over 60 feet (19fished), 4 for hand troll (none fished), and one mechanical jig that was not fished.

Groundfish: Groundfish fisheries accumulated a large number of permits. There were 109 permits issued (37 fished). The statistics for groundfish fisheries include three species categories lingcod, rockfish and miscellaneous salt water finfish. There were nine permits for lingcod: three permits for longliners under 60 feet (one fished), three for mechanical jig (one fished), one non-fished permit for handtroll, one non-fished permit for dinglebar troll, and one non-fished permit for a longline vessel over 60 feet. The bulk of the groundfish fleet (99 permits) worked on miscellaneous salt water finfish: 33 issued permits for longliners under 60 feet (8 fished), 16 for vessels under 60 feet with pot gear (6 fished), 21 for vessels with mechanical jig (8 fished), 7 for hand troll (none fished), 5 for otter troll (4 fished), 7 for vessels over 60 feet with pot gear (7 fished), 8 for longliners over 60 feet, and one non-fished permit for pair trawl. Finally, there was a non-fished permit for a longliner over 60 feet to catch demersal rockfish in the southeast. All permits were for a statewide range.

Herring: There were 107 permits issued in 2000 (31 fished). There were 26 permits for herring roe fished with purse seine (9 fished): 2 for the southeast (both fished), 4 for Prince William Sound (none fished), 2 for Cook Inlet (none fished), 3 in Kodiak (none fished), one in Chignik (not fished), 3 in the Alaskan Peninsula (none fished), and 11 for the Bristol Bay (7 fished). There were 54 issued permits to catch herring roe with gillnet (23 fished): 18 for the Bristol Bay area (10 were fished), 18 for Norton Sound (6 fished), 3 for Prince William Sound (not fished), 5 for Cook Inlet (none fished), 3 for Nelson Island (one fished), 8 for Security Cove (one fished), 5 for Nunivak Island (2 fished), 2 for Cape Avinof, and 2 for Goodnews Bay (none fished). There was one issued and fished permit to collect herring roe in Norton Sound with beach seine. There were three permits to gather herring roe for food and bait: one non-fished permit for gillnet in the southeast, one non-fished permit for purse seine in Prince William Sound and one permit for purse seine in the Alaska Peninsula. Finally, there were 14 non-fished permits for herring spawn on kelp: eight for the Bristol Bay, one for the southeast, and five for Prince William Sound.

Salmon: In 2000, Anchorage had a large number of salmon fishing permits. The salmon fishery was of great importance to Anchorage's fishing industry. The city had 641 permits issued, 448 of which were fished. While 224 vessel owners claim official residence in the city and 112 vessels are home ported in their harbor, only 7 vessels actually deliver to its port (for a total of 15.26 tons). This is a reflection of Anchorage's limited port and processing facilities and illustrates that landings are made elsewhere.

There were 54 permits for purse seine: one issued and fished permit for the southeast, 18 permits to fish in Prince William Sound (5 fished), 6 for Cook Inlet (4 fished), 16 for the Kodiak area (7 fished), 10 permits for Chignik waters (10 fished), and 3 for the Alaskan Peninsula and the Aleutian Islands (one fished). There were two non-fished permits to use beach seine in Kodiak.

Inhabitants of the city also hold 196 permits to fish with drift gillnet: 121 in the Bristol Bay area (108 fished), 38 in Cook Inlet (31 fished), 29 in Prince William Sound (26 were fished), and 7 fished permits for Alaskan Peninsula waters for the southeast (one fished).

There was a total of 351 permits issued to fish salmon with set gillnet, although only 239 were actually fished: 121 permits issued for Cook Inlet (88 fished), 126 for Bristol Bay (108 fished), 27 for the Lower Yukon (13 fished), 16 for Kuskokwim (one fished), 15 for the North Sound (2 fished), 15 for Kotzebue (none fished), 15 for the Alaskan peninsula (11 fished), 11 for Kodiak waters (8 fished), 6 for Prince William Sound (5 fished), 5 for the upper Yukon (none fished), and 4 for Yakutat (3 fished).

Finally, 16 permits were issued for hand troll statewide (one fished), 10 for power gurdy troll

statewide (7 fished), and 2 non-fished permits for a fish wheel on the upper Yukon River.

Sablefish: The sablefish fishery issued 30 permits (23 fished): 13 permits issued for longline vessels under 60 feet with statewide range (10 fished), 11 permits with fixed gear (maximum vessel length 50 feet) for Prince William Sound (8 fished), 5 permits issued and fished for longline vessels over 60 feet (statewide range), and one non-fished permit for pot gear for a vessel over 60 feet (statewide range).

Other shellfish: These fisheries issued 12 permits (3 fished). There were eight permits to fish shrimp (2 fished): one with otter trawl and one with pot gear, both to fish in Prince William Sound. The remaining six were not fished. They were issued for vessels under 60 feet with pot gear, 5 for Prince William Sound, and one for the southeast. At the same time there were 2 issued but not fished permits for octopi and squid. Both were to fish in the southwest with pot gear, one for a vessel under 60 feet and one for a vessel over 60 feet. Finally, there were two permits to catch sea cucumbers: both of them were for diving gear, one for the southeast (not fished), and the other statewide except the southeast.

Anchorage, according to 2003 ADF&G records, harbored eleven processing plants: Alaskan Sausage, Alaska Sea Pack, 10th & M Seafoods, Sockeye Alaska, Alaskan Smoked Salmon, Favco Inc., Great Pacific Seafood, Sagaya Wholesale, Samer-I Seafoods, Teddys Tasty Meats, and Yamaya Seafoods. This concentration of the processing industry has an impact on employment by providing thousands of jobs. All types of commercial fisheries, federal or state regulated, were processed in the area.

Although the economic profile of Anchorage shows a large concentration of processors, the data on landings shows paradoxically low quantities of fish delivered in port. The composition of the fleet, according to species, delivering in Anchorage in 2000 was: salmon (7 vessels), halibut (10 vessels), other groundfish (20 vessels) and BSAI crab (5 vessels). The explanation for this contradiction is that most of the fish was delivered to other ports and later transported by different means to the processing plants surrounding the city, or that fish were delivered to plants closer to the fishing grounds.

Although the salmon industry is very important in Anchorage, this municipality did not benefit from 2003 federal salmon disaster funds to compensate for loses to the municipal tax base due to salmon prices plummeting.

b) Eagle River (including Chugiak, Birchwood, Eklutna, Fire Lake and Peters Creek)*

The data on commercial fishing for Eagle River (including Chugiak, Birchwood, Eklutna, Fire Lake, and Peters Creek) is managed in an aggregate way by the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (ACFEC). The economy and the structure of commercial fishing sectors for these communities are affected by their proximity to the large city of Anchorage. Most of these communities have no port and the cargo and harbor businesses in the area are managed by Anchorage's port. Notwithstanding this dependence on Anchorage's facilities, the communities held, in 2000, 139 permits for 106 individuals. In Eagle River and Chugiak there were 133 registered crewmen residents (included in Anchorage's crew total). Only 92 of the permits held by the community were fished. The permits held by Eagle River inhabitants encompassed most of the Alaska fisheries: halibut, herring, sablefish, other shellfish, other groundfish, and salmon.

Salmon: The most important fishery of Eagle River in terms of numbers was salmon with 81 permits (64 fished). There were 54 permits issued to fish with set gillnet: 26 for Bristol Bay (28 fished), 23 for Cook Inlet (17 fished), 2 for Kodiak waters (one fished), 2 for Prince William Sound (one fished), and one that was not fished for Yakutat. The community had also 18 permits for drift gillnet: 6 for Prince William Sound (6 fished), 7 for Cook Inlet (5 fished), 4 for Bristol Bay (4 fished), and one non-fished permit for the southeast. There were five permits to use purse seine: one fished permit for the southeast, two non-fished permits for Prince William Sound and Kodiak respectively, and two for Cook Inlet (one fished). Finally, there was one permit for beach seine in Kodiak, three for hand troll statewide, and one for a fish wheel in the upper Yukon River. None of these were fished in the year 2000.

Herring: Eagle River had 12 permits to catch herring (4 fished). There were ten permits to catch herring roe with gillnet: four in Cook Inlet (one fished), three in Bristol Bay (two fished), two for Secret Cove (one fished), and a non-fished permit for Norton Sound. There was also a non-fished permit to

* Commercial fishing permit data given here is from the CFEC. It includes the communities of Birchwood, Chugiak, Eagle River, Eklutna, Fire Lake, and Peters Creek

catch herring roe with purse seine in Bristol Bay and a non-used permit for herring spawn for kelp in Prince William Sound.

Other groundfish: In Eagle River the permits to catch "other groundfish" affected lingcod and miscellaneous salt water finfish. These fisheries were represented by 21 permits (six fished). There were five permits to catch lingcod (2 fished): three for hand troll statewide (one fished), one fished permit for mechanical jig, and a non-fished permit for a longliner under 60 feet. There were 16 permits for miscellaneous finfish (4 fished): 7 permits to use mechanical jig (2 fished), 4 for longliners under 60 feet (one fished), 3 for hand trollers (one fished), and 2 for pot gear in vessels under 60 feet. All the permits for other groundfish in the year 2000 had statewide range.

Halibut: There were 16 permits pertaining to halibut permits (12 fished): 13 for longliners under 60 feet (10 fished), 2 fished permits for longliners over 60 feet, and one non-fished permit for a mechanical jig. All of them had a statewide range.

Sablefish: The sablefish fishery issued 4 permits (4 fished): 2 for longliners under 60 feet with statewide range, and 2 for fixed gear vessels of a maximum length of 50 feet working in Prince William Sound.

Other Shellfish: There were only five permits issued to catch other shellfish (2 fished). There was one used permit to catch geoduck clam with diving gear in the southeast, one for scallops in the southwest, a non-fished permit for sea urchin with diving gear in the southeast, and two non-used permits to catch shrimp with pot gear with vessels under 60 feet in Prince William Sound and the southeast.

c) Girdwood*

In 2000, Girdwood had 29 commercial permit holders with 57 all-fisheries combined permits. Thirty-eight residents were registered as crewmen with the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (ACFEC) (included in Anchorage's crew total). There were 2 federal fisheries vessel owners plus 10 owners of salmon vessels. Girdwood's fleet fished halibut, herring and other types of groundfish, sablefish, and salmon.

Salmon: The most important fishery in Girdwood in terms of numbers was salmon with 27 permits (20 fished). There were nine permits to fish with set gillnet: four for Bristol Bay (five fished), six for Cook Inlet (two fished), one fished permit for Prince William Sound, and one fished permit for the Alaskan Peninsula. The community held eight permits for drift gillnet: two permits for Prince William Sound (both fished), one for Cook Inlet (fished by two holders during that year), and five for Bristol Bay (four fished). There were also seven permits to use purse seine: one fished permit for Cook Inlet, three permits for Prince William Sound (two fished), and three non-fished permits for Kodiak waters.

Herring: This fishery encompassed a significant number of Girdwood's permits, a total of 10, although none were fished in 2000. There were five permits for herring roe fished with purse seine: two for the Prince William Sound, one for Cook Inlet, one in Kodiak, and one for Bristol Bay. There were two issued permits to catch herring roe with gillnet: one for Bristol Bay and one for Security Cove. One permit was issued to catch herring roe for food and bait with purse seine in Prince William Sound. Finally, there were two permits to collect herring spawn on kelp in Prince William Sound.

Halibut: A total of ten permits were issued for halibut in 2000 with statewide range (five of which were fished): there were seven issued permits for longline vessels under 60 feet (four fished), two permits for longline vessels over 60 feet (one fished), and one permit for hand troll (not fished).

Other Finfish: A total of five permits were issued in 2000 to fish miscellaneous salt water finfish and sablefish including four non-fished permits for longliners under 60 feet catching finfish, and one fished permit for a mechanical jig.

Sablefish: A total of five sablefish permits were issued (two fished). There were two non-fished permits for longline gear in a vessel under 60 feet (one fished), one for fixed gear in a 60 foot vessel, and two permits for a 50 foot vessel (one fished). The last three permits were for Prince William Sound.

Sport Fishing

The municipality of Anchorage has aggregated data for businesses licenses. There are hundreds of businesses related to sport fishing: charters, fishing

* Commercial fishing permit data given here is from the CFEC. It is for the communities of Bird Creek, Girdwood, Indian, Kern, Portage, and Rainbow.

guides, gear, housing, and catering associated to fishing trips, etc. The city had 14 official licenses for freshwater guide businesses and 124 saltwater guide business licenses. Girdwood had three freshwater and 11 saltwater guide businesses, while Eagle River had two freshwater and 13 saltwater guide businesses. Chugiak had six saltwater guide businesses.

In 2000, 98,516 sport fishing licenses were sold in the municipality of Anchorage: 54,120 of those licenses were sold to residents of Alaska. These numbers give an idea of the importance of this sector in the economy of the city and the state. Eagle River had 8,255 permits, of which 5,577 were sold to residents. Girdwood sold 565 permits, with 119 sold to Alaskan residents.

Subsistence Fishing

The differences mentioned above between the communities of Anchorage, Eagle River-Chugiak, and Girdwood, have a fundamental impact on the specific form that the fisheries industry takes in each one of them. These are, by definition, urban areas. Some of these communities are real urban areas with corresponding sets of infrastructure and services associated with such designations. Some, although legally urban, are, from a practical perspective, more accurately described as rural. From the fisheries perspective, these differences have important impacts: the former are more susceptible to accumulate large industrial complexes such as processing plants or headquarters while the latter, for instance, will probably have more involvement with subsistence practices.

This fact has important consequences on their respective involvement in the North Pacific fisheries. As mentioned early on, the entire area is officially considered urban. A fundamental consequence of this fact is that after 20 years of legal discussions between the state of Alaska, the federal government, and the courts, the inhabitants of urban areas have no subsistence rights in federal lands and waters. Although these regulations were not strictly enforced for almost 20 years while managed by the state, in the late1990s, after a long judicial battle, the federal government took over the responsibility of management and enforcement. That does not mean that the inhabitants of Anchorage do not fish or hunt. The basic difference is that these activities tend to be more easily classified as sport related. This is obviously misleading in many aspects due to the enormous heterogeneity of the Anchorage population.

Another important factor is also the heterogeneity of the communities included inside the Anchorage municipality. All of them are considered urban but a city of almost three hundred thousand inhabitants is obviously not the same as a rural town of a few hundred. Here, the records and statistics are not capable of depicting the internal variability of the area. The inhabitants of Girdwood, for instance, living in a relatively non-developed mountainous area have a completely different relation with the landscape than those in Anchorage, surrounded by square miles of infrastructure although they have easy access to all Anchorage facilities, unlike most of rural Alaska.

With all probability, though, Anchorage's inhabitants are engaged at some level, with subsistence harvesting as illustrated by the 369 salmon subsistence harvesting permits issued by the state which, in 1999, accounted for almost 21,000 sockeye salmon caught. Other salmon species, in a minor degree were also fished. Eagle River-Chugiak had 71 salmon fishing subsistence permits (5,500 sockeye) and Girdwood 7.

Palmer (return to communities)

People and Place

Location

The city of Palmer lies in the center of an agricultural valley, the Matanuska Valley. It is located 42 miles northeast of Anchorage by car on the Glenn Highway. The municipality encompasses 3.8 square miles of land.

Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of Palmer was 4,533. About 8.2% of the recorded inhabitants were Alaska Native, 80.9% White, 2.1% Black, 1.1% Asian, 0.3% Hawaiian Native, 1.1% other, and 6.3% identified with two or more racial categories. A total of 12.5% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. At the same time, 3.5% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic.

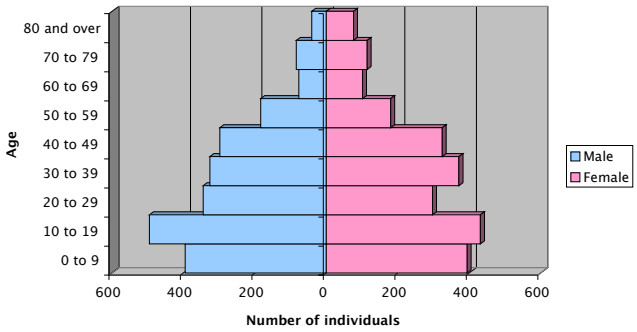
This community has a fairly balanced gender ratio: 49.5% of the population was male and 50.5% female. A significant minority of only 391 individuals lived in group quarters. The rest of the population lived in households.

The median age in Palmer, 28.8 years, is significantly younger than the national average of 35.3 years. The population jumped from 1,140 in the 1970s to 2,141 in the 1980s, and was stable for a decade with 2,866 inhabitants, but jumped again to 4,533 2000. There was 40.5% of the population between 25 and 54 years old, and 37.9% under 19 years old. Of those age 25 years and over, about 87.5% graduated from high school and went on to further schooling, and 14.5% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher. Only 12.5% of the population over age 25 never completed 12th grade.

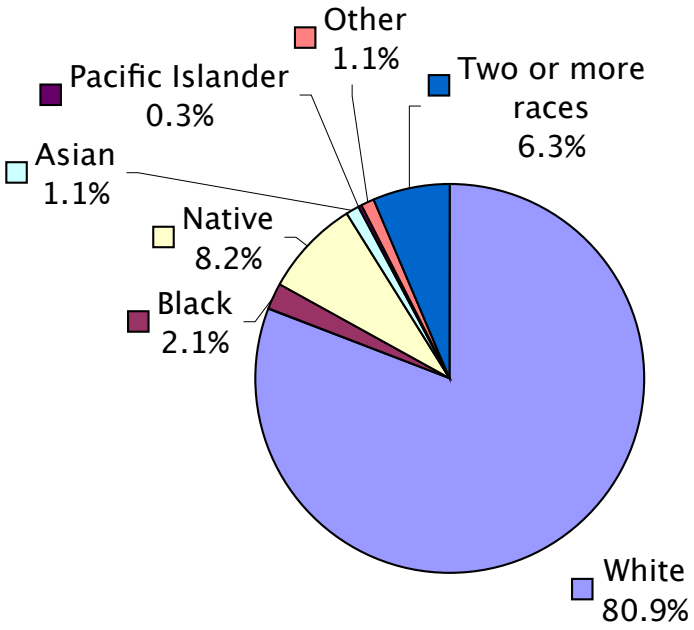
History

In 1890 George Palmer, a trader from Knik, established a trading post on the Matanuska River. The post was a place of interaction for the increasingly White population interested in mining, logging, and agriculture. Two Athabascan groups (the Ahtna and Dena'ina) had lived in the area for centuries. Their lifestyle was predominantly nomadic, characterized by hunting and gathering practices.

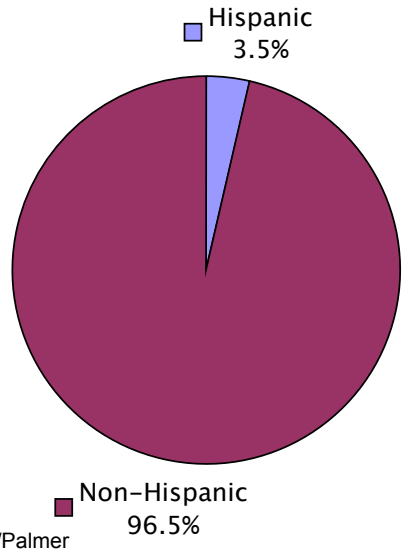
2000 Population Structure
Palmer
Data source: US Census



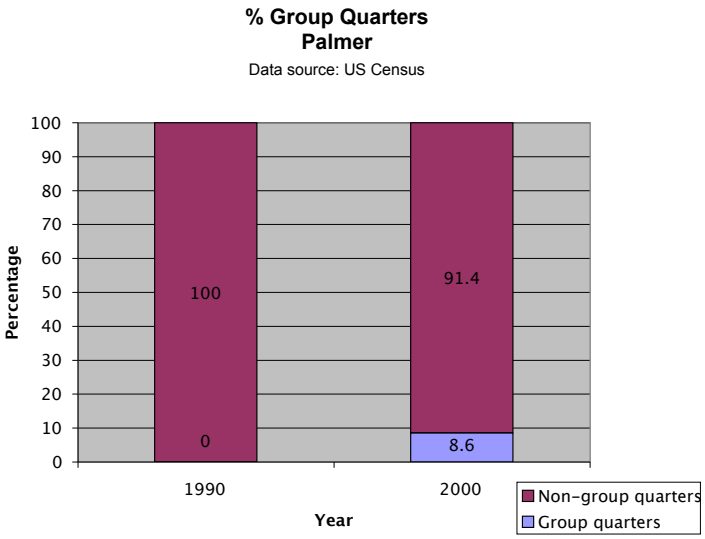
2000 Racial Structure
Palmer
Data source: US Census

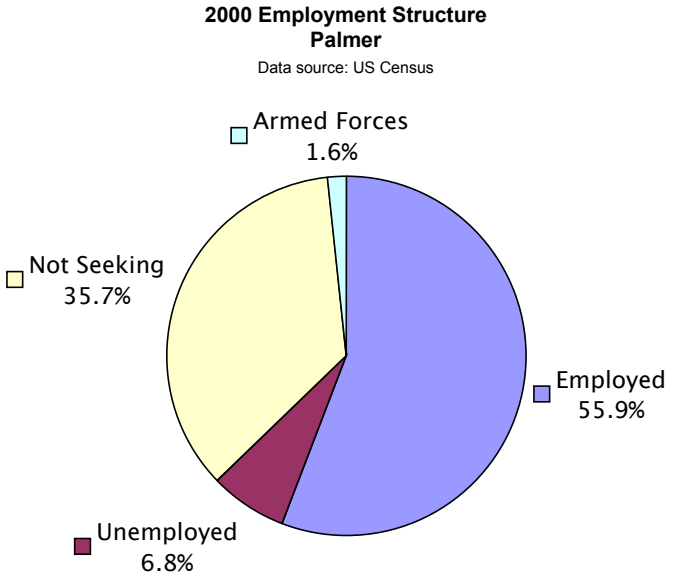


2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Haines
Data source: US Census



In 1916 a railway station was constructed in Palmer increasing its connectivity with the rest of the state. The early years of Palmer were marked by its almost exclusive agricultural character. An important part of this agricultural history was constituted by the Matanuska Valley Colony (1935). The Federal Emergency Relief Administration, one of the many New Deal relief agencies created by President Roosevelt, planned an agricultural colony in Alaska which was cited for Palmer. Two hundred and three families, mostly from Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, were invited to join the Colony. They arrived in Palmer in the summer of 1935. Despite a high failure rate, many of their descendants still live in the Mat-Su Valley today. The City of Palmer was officially formed in 1951. Construction of the statewide road system and the rapid development of Anchorage have fueled growth in the Mat-Su Valley.





Infrastructure

Current Economy

Palmer, although officially an urban area, is located on the border of rural Alaska. It has a strong agricultural character, but at the same time, its proximity to Anchorage allows many of its residents to commute and to participate in a fully urbanized economy. This dual character has been recently complemented by a growing tourism sector that takes advantage of popular recreational sites such as Hatcher Pass, Crevasse-Moraine Trails, Kepler Lake, Bonnie Lake, Finger Lake, and Long Lake. The increase of tourism has seen an increase in businesses catering to visitors.

Palmer, as administrative center of the Mat-Su Borough, has also become the center of governmental services for the area (including city, borough, state, and federal services). The community, as with most others in Alaska, is fairly engaged in the North Pacific fishing industry: in 2000, 73 area residents held commercial fishing permits.

Farming includes musk ox ranching, whose underwool (qiviut) is knit into garments by Alaska Native women from several rural villages. Between 2,500 and 3,500 garments are created each year by these women, and sold by an Anchorage cooperative. This farm is also a tourist attraction.

The University has an Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station Office and a district Cooperative Extension Service office located in Palmer. The University's Matanuska Research Farm is also here.

The employment structure of the community, as illustrated by Census data, shows that 56% of the total potential labor force was employed at the time of the survey. About 6.8% of the total potential labor force was unemployed, 35.7% of the adult workforce was not searching for employment, and 1.6% was in the military. In Palmer, the average per capita income was $17,203 and the median household income was $45,571. In this community a surprisingly high 12.7% of the population was below poverty levels.

Governance

Palmer was incorporated as a Home Rule city in 1951. It is governed by a manager supported by a

seven-member council (mayor included). Palmer has a 3% sales tax, a 5% borough tax on accommodation and 0.2257% and 1.2145% taxes on property administered by the city and the borough, respectively.

The city is the administrative center of the Mat-Su Borough. Palmer is also the home of representatives of the Montana Creek Native Association, a Native village corporation.

The closest regional offices of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) are in Anchorage. Palmer has its own USDA Rural Development office as well as representation from several services of the state of Alaska (i.e. State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, and Division of Agriculture).

Facilities

From a transportation perspective, Palmer is relatively well-connected to the main transport arteries of the state. Glenn Highway runs nearby and Palmer is also connected to the George Parks Highway. The Alaska Railroad connects Palmer to Whittier, Seward, and Anchorage for ocean freight delivery. The Anchorage International Airport is close enough to Palmer to cover its needs for commercial and long distance flights. The Palmer municipal Airport though, is served by private and chartered flights. It has two paved airstrips, one 6,000 feet and the other 3,616 feet. Additionally, the city contains seven more privately owned airstrips. Floatplanes may land at nearby Finger Lake or Wolf Lake.

Palmer has seven schools ranging from kindergarten to high school which have 2,983 students and 168 teachers. Health care is provided by the Valley Hospital (privately owned) and the Palmer Ambulance Service. Long term care is provided by the Palmer's Pioneer Home. The city has local police and a state trooper's station.

Palmer has water and sewage systems operated by the city, although there are also some privately operated wells. Power is provided by Matanuska Electric Association which owns, in part, the Alaska Electric Generation & Transmission Cooperative, Inc. It operates a gas turbine plant in Soldotna and also purchases electricity from Chugach Electric and the Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project. Piped natural gas, provided by Enstar, is used to heat homes. The Mat-Su Borough operates the landfill in Palmer.

Involvement with North Pacific fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Although Palmer is an inland community, it remains significantly involved in Alaskan fisheries. According to ADF&G records from 2000, Palmer had 72 commercial permit holders with 110 permits in all commercial fisheries (72 fished that year). In Palmer, 108 individuals were registered as crewmen and there were 8 federal fisheries vessel owners as well as 22 owners of salmon vessels. Palmer's fleet was involved, in one way or another, in most of the Alaska fisheries: crab, sablefish, halibut, herring and other groundfish, other shellfish, and salmon. Permits are issued specific to species, size of the vessel, type of gear, and fishing area.

Halibut: There were 12 permits issued affecting halibut fisheries (11 fished): 5 permits for longline vessels over 60 feet (4 fished), and 7 issued and fished permits for longliners under 60 feet, all with statewide range.

Groundfish: Groundfish fisheries issue 18 permits (9 fished). The community had three statewide permits to catch lingcod: one for hand troll (not fished), and two permits for mechanical jig. A total of 15 permits were issued to catch miscellaneous saltwater finfish: 2 for a hand troll vessel (one permit fished), 5 permits for longline vessels under 60 feet (2 fished), one permit for otter trawl (not fished), 4 permits for mechanical jig (2 fished) and one fished permit for pot gear for a vessel 60 feet or over, all with statewide range. Finally there was a non-fished permit to catch demersal shelf rockfish with a longliner under 60 feet.

Salmon: The salmon fleet was the largest component of Palmer's fishery effort in commercial fisheries in 2000. It accounted for 62 permits, 50 of which were fished. There were three purse seine permits restricted to Prince William Sound (one fished), one for the Alaska Peninsula and the Aleutian Islands and one for the southeast. A total of 23 permits for drift gillnet were issued: eight for Prince William Sound, two for Cook Inlet, and 14 for Bristol Bay. The remaining 35 permits were for set gillnet: 18 for Cook Inlet (15 fished), 9 for the Bristol Bay (7 fished), one for the Alaska Peninsula, 4 for the Lower Yukon River (one fished), and 3 non-fished permits for the Upper Yukon, Kotzebue, and Norton Sound respectively.

Herring: A total of 12 permits pertained to herring (3 fished): 6 permits to catch herring roe with

gillnet in Bristol Bay (2 fished), and 4 for gillnet in Secret Cove (one fished). In addition, there were two permits to gather spawn on kelp in Prince William Sound (none fished).

Other fisheries: These, in Palmer, included crab, sablefish, and other shellfish. There were two non-fished Dungeness crab permits to fish with pot gear in vessels over 60 feet in Cook Inlet. Sablefish had three issued and fished permits: two for longliners under 60 feet with statewide range, and one for a longliner over 60 feet fishing in the northern southeast. Finally, other shellfish (sea cucumber) had one non-used permit for diving gear in the southeast.

Sport Fishing

In 2000 this community issued 5,078 sport fishing licenses: 3,255 of them were bought by Alaska residents. The area is visited by numerous non-residents that get their licenses here or elsewhere. The records of the local chamber of commerce show at least six small businesses that are directly working in different aspects of the recreational fishing industry.

Subsistence Fishing

This community is a Home Rule city located in the Matsu-Susitna Borough. From a federal perspective, Palmer is not considered rural and its inhabitants have no subsistence rights on federal lands. However, subsistence remains important to some of the population. In 1999 there were 46 salmon harvest subsistence permits issued to households by the state of Alaska that accounted for approximately 2,600 sockeye salmon. Other salmon species were caught in smaller amounts. Although 46 permits is a very small number for a community of almost 5,000 inhabitants, it is worth mentioning that subsistence fishing, in urban settings, is often disguised as recreational fishing.

Skwentna (return to communities)

People and Place

Location

Skwentna is situated 70 air miles northwest of Anchorage on the south bank of the Skwentna River at its junction with Eight Mile Creek in the Yentna River valley. The area encompasses 442.8 square miles of land and 6.9 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

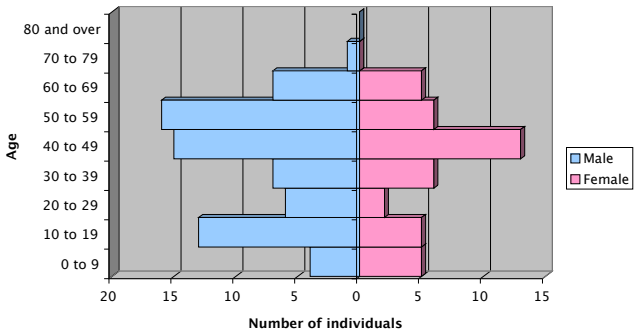
According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of Skwentna was 111. Population numbers have risen over the past two decades for which Census records are available. There were significantly more males (62.2%) than females (37.8%) in 2000 according to Census data. The racial composition of the population was predominantly White (92.8%), with 6.3% American Indian and Alaska Native. Overall, 0.9% of the population identified with two or more races. A total of 7.2% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. None of the population identified as Hispanic. The median age was 44.6 years, significantly higher than the national median of 35.3 years for the same year. The 2000 Census showed that 24.3% of the population was under 19 years of age while 19.8% of the population was over 55 years of age.

There were 360 housing units in Skwentna, 310 of which were designated vacant, and of these, 307 were vacant due to seasonal use. At the time of the 2000 Census, none of the population lived in group quarters. A total of 95.0% of the population over 25 years of age had a high school diploma or higher while 36.3% also had a bachelor's degree or higher.

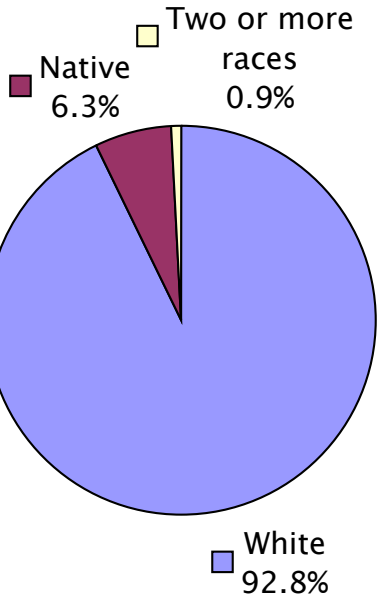
History

The Skwentna and Yenta Rivers have long been fishing grounds of the Dena'ina Athabascans. In 1908, an Alaska Road Commission crew blazed a trail from Seward to Nome, going through Old Skwentna from the Susitna River to Rainy Pass. Many roadhouses were later constructed along the trail to the Innoko Mining District. During the opening of the interior and the rise of exploitive exploration, prospectors, trappers and Indians often used sled dogs to transport goods over the trail. A post office was opened in 1937 and is still run by a couple to service the community. After World War II, Morrison-Knudson built an airstrip,

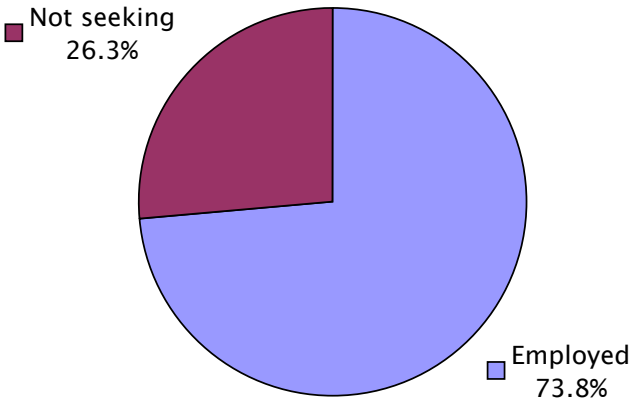
2000 Population Structure
Skwentna
Data source: US Census



2000 Racial Structure
Skwentna
Data source: US Census



2000 Employment Structure
Skwentna
Data source: US Census



and in 1950 the U.S. Army established a radar station at Skwentna and a recreation camp at Shell Lake, 15 air miles from Skwentna. In the 1960s, State land disposals increased settlement. Skwentna is located along the Iditarod trail, which attracts interest and visitors to the community.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

Aside from self employment, the local store and the school are the only main sources of steady employment in Skwentna. Some residents operate fishing lodges or trap and the post office has long been run by old-time residents. Although located inland, there are several vessels with Skwentna registered as their home port. While there is some river access to the community in the warmer months, there is no information available about docking facilities and presumably most large fishing vessels are housed elsewhere. In spite of a relatively high number of vessels home ported, and several resident vessel owners, there is no information available from the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (ACFEC) regarding fishing permits for Skwentna. It seems likely, however, that some resident vessel owners would also hold fishing permits.

At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, 73.8% of the potential labor force was employed and there was no unemployment rate. A total of 26.3% of the population over 16 years of age was not in the labor force, and 5.8% of the population was below the poverty level. The median household income in the same year was $16,250 and the per capita income was $23,995.

Governance

The City of Skwentna is unincorporated and there are no city or borough officials, although the community is in the Matanuska-Sustina Borough. Many municipal tasks are looked after by the Skwentna Community Council. Skwentna was not included in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and is not federally recognized as a Native village.

The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regional office, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office, and Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office are all located in Anchorage.

Facilities

There is no road access from the George Parks Highway -- residents are dependent upon air travel and snowmachines. A state-owned 3,400 foot gravel airstrip is available. A private airstrip and floatplane access are located at Alexander Lake. There is no regular air service to Skwentna, but charter flights are available, however the pricing of charter flights was not readily accessible. There is a roadhouse, where lodging and meals are available. In addition, there is a small weather station in Skwentna. Local residents use snowmachines or aircraft to travel to the post office. A number of homes have individual water wells, but septic tanks are rare, so very few homes are fully plumbed. Outhouses are the primary means of sewage disposal. There is no central electric system. Funds have been provided to purchase a community refuse incinerator, however, the community is undecided on a refuse solution. An unofficial dump-site near the airport is currently used by several families, but most residents burn and bury their own refuse. Electricity is supplied by individual generators. There is no clinic or hospital in the community, nor any sort of police services. There is no school in operation in the community.

Skwentna is a fairly isolated community relative to tourist destinations in Alaska and does not have a major tourism industry. At least four businesses operate to provide visitor accommodations. In addition, a new boat launch, Deshka Landing, has brought increased boat and snowmobile traffic in recent years.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Skwentna is considered to be substantially involved in the Alaska fishing industry on account of the relatively large number of vessels home ported and resident vessel owners in the community. There are 47 vessels registered with Skwentna as their home port. A total of 29 residents of the community are vessel owners. However, there is no documentation regarding fishing permits held by members of the community according to ACFEC. These characteristics testify to the problematic nature of defining a community's engagement with the fishing industry on the basis of certain variables. Skwentna may therefore be representative of a community which has an idiosyncratic, yet significant, relationship with the fishing industry.

Sport Fishing

There were 11 freshwater sport fishing businesses registered in Skwentna in 2002. Due to the remoteness of the community, this is a highly tenuous industry, but is a significant component of the community's economy and in terms of community members' lifestyle and livelihood. In 2000 there was a total of 292 sport fishing licenses sold in Skwentna, only 60 of which were sold to Alaska residents.

Subsistence Fishing

Although the ADF&G have not obtained a profile of subsistence practices in Skwentna, subsistence is alluded to, though not detailed, in other material. Hunting, gathering and fishing are the means by which a significant portion of wild foods are collected by local residents.

Wasilla (return to communities)

People and Place

Location

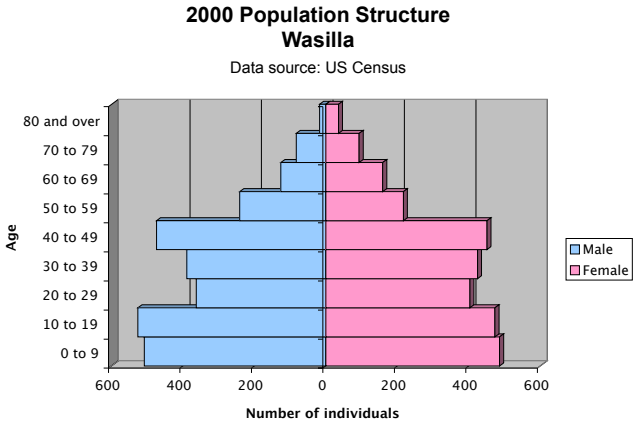
Wasilla is located midway between the Matanuska and Susitna Valleys on the George Parks Highway. It lies between Wasilla and Lucille Lakes, 43 miles north of Anchorage. The area encompasses 13 square miles of land and 0.7 square miles of water. Wasilla, as with most of the communities in the Mat-Su borough, is situated between the city of Anchorage and the tranquility of the country. The community is fairly close to the urban amenities of Anchorage, while still enjoying a rural lifestyle.

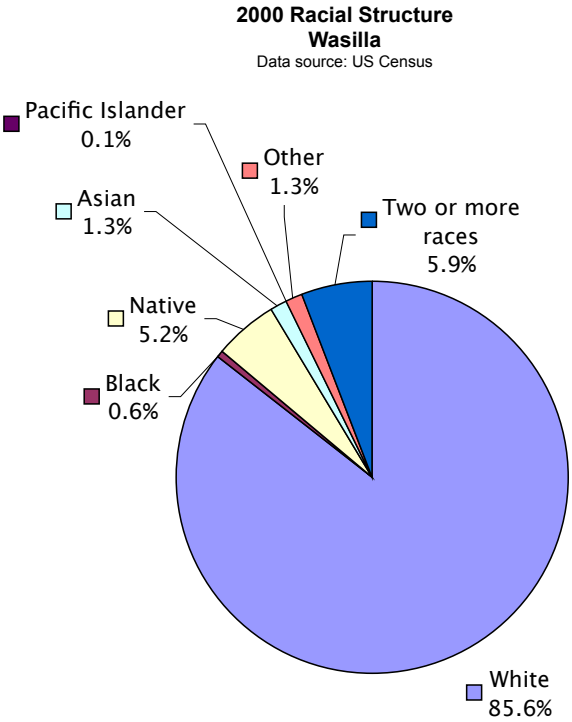
Demographic Profile

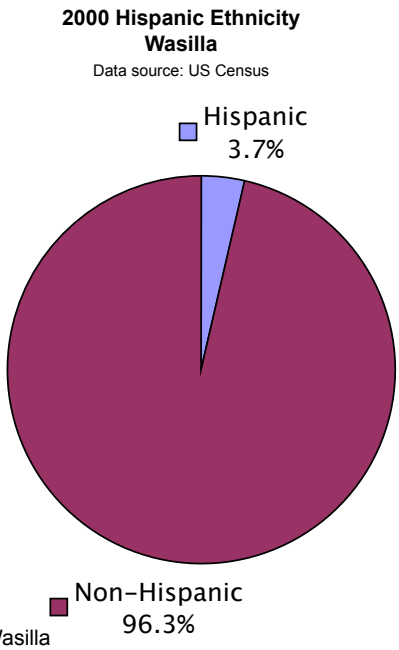
According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Wasilla had 5,469 inhabitants. About 5.2% of the recorded inhabitants were Alaska Native, about 85.5% White, 1.3% Asian, 0.6% Black, 0.1% Hawaiian Native, 1.3% Other, and 5.9% of two or more races. A total of 9.1% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. Approximately 3.7% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic.

This community has a fairly balanced gender ratio: 49.9% of the population was male and 50.1% female. Only five individuals in the community lived in group quarters. The rest of the population lived in households. The community had a significant number of empty houses, some for seasonal use.

The median age of this community was 29.7 years, significantly younger than the national average of 35.3 years. The recent historical evolution of the census shows a dramatic increase in the population since the 1970s. The population has gone from 300 in the 1970s, to 1,559 in the 1980s and 4,028 in the 1990s. The 2000 age structure showed that 43.7% of residents were between 25 and 54 years old, and a significant portion of the population (36.4%) was under 19 years old. Finally, from an educational achievement standpoint, 88.8% of the population of Wasilla age 25 and over had graduated from high school or gone on to further schooling, 12.7% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher, and 11.2% of the population never completed 12th grade.







History

The history of modern Wasilla, as with most of the towns of the area, is linked to a double phenomenon: the early 20th century gold rush and the demographic explosion that it represented, and the posterior migration wave of agricultural workers that took over the Matanuska-Susitna Valley in the 1930s.

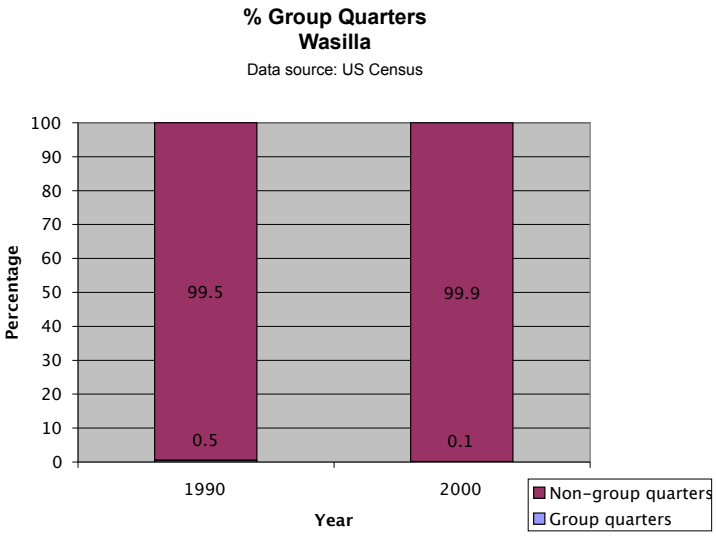
Previously, the Mat-Su Valley was entirely occupied by Tanaina Athabascan Indians who, in dispersed habitat patterns, managed the landscape through hunting and gathering practices.

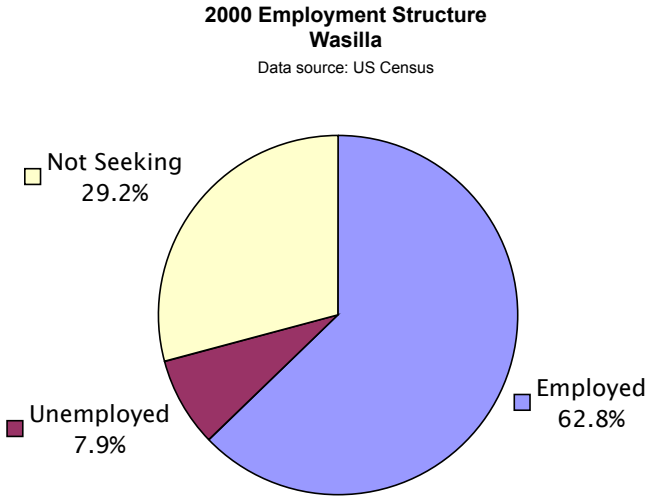
The city of Wasilla itself was named after a respected local Dena'ina chief and shaman, Chief Wasilla. In the Dena'ina Athabascan Indian dialect, "Wasilla" is said to mean "breath of air." Other sources claim that the Chief derived his name from the Russian language. The area surrounding Chief Wasilla's home was called "Bentah" by the Dena'ina, meaning "many lakes." The most prominent water features in the city today are Wasilla Lake, Lake Lucille and Jacobsen Lake, as well as many small, unnamed lakes and ponds. Cottonwood Creek, Lucille Creek, and several small streams traverse the city.

From the very beginning the town was established to take advantage of a particular location. Wasilla was founded in 1917 at the intersection of the Carle Wagon Road, now Wasilla-Fishhook Road, which linked the coastal community of Knik with the Willow Creek mining district and the newly constructed Alaska Railroad. This new community quickly replaced the older settlement of Knik as a distribution point because of its location on the rail line.

The construction in the 1970s of the George Parks Highway through Wasilla connected it to both Anchorage and Denali National Park, a major tourism destination. This connection changed Wasilla's character: it went from being mainly oriented toward mining and agriculture to an excellent locale from which to commute to Anchorage and to start a slow economic transition into a retail marketing and distribution center providing a wide range of tourism services.

The City was incorporated in 1974 and it is the home of the Iditarod Trail Committee and Iron Dog Race.





Wasilla is located at the edge of urban Alaska. Although it has a strong agricultural tradition, its residents are engaged in all sorts of economic activities. Some activities, like farming, fishing, or wood product processing relate to the use of the natural resources available in the area. Other activities, like retail, government, or tourism provide all sorts of services. There is also some industry devoted to the production of steel and concrete.

At the same time, its proximity to Anchorage allows 30% of its residents to commute to the city and participate in the urban economy.

The employment structure of the community shows that 62.8% of the total potential labor force was employed at the time of the 2000 Census. About 7.9% of the total potential labor force was unemployed, 29.2% of the adult workforce was not searching for employment, and 0.2% was in the armed forces.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

In Wasilla, the median per capita income was $21,127 and the median household income was $48,226. In this community, 9.6% of the population was below the poverty level.

Governance

Wasilla, located in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, was incorporated as a first-class city in 1974. It is governed by a strong mayor form of government with a seven-member council (mayor included). The city administers a 0.4 mill (0.04%) property tax and a 2.5% sales tax. The borough administers a 11.8 mill (1.8%) property tax and a 1.5 mill (0.15%) fire service area property tax.

The closest regional offices of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) are in Anchorage. Wasilla residents can access some regional institutions that have offices in neighboring Palmer: borough headquarters, USDA Rural Development office as well as representation from several services of the state of Alaska.

Facilities

Wasilla, as most of the communities located at the end of the Knik Arm, is very well-connected by land to the surrounding communities. Two important highways and the main railroad serve their resident's needs. The George Parks Highway, Glenn Highway, and other local roads connect the city to Anchorage, the remainder of the state, and Canada. The Alaska Railroad serves Wasilla on the Fairbanks to Seward route.

The proximity of Anchorage and its international airport covers the needs for most long range and commercial flights. The city also has its own airport, with a paved 3,700 foot airstrip, that provides scheduled commuter and air taxi services. Float planes land at Wasilla Lake, Jacobsen Lake and Lake Lucille. In addition, the area has private airstrips.

Wasilla has seven schools that have 4,145 students, from kindergarten through twelfth grade, and 219 teachers. Health care is provided by the West Valley Medical Center (privately owned) and the Central Ambulance Service (operated by the borough's Central Mat-Su Fire Emergency Service). Alternative care can be provided by the Valley Hospital in Palmer or the health care system in Anchorage. The city has it own police department.

The majority of homes in Wasilla use individual water wells and septic systems, although the City operates a piped water and sewer system. Matanuska Electric Association is part owner of the Alaska Electric Generation & Transmission Cooperative, Inc., which operates a gas turbine plant in Soldotna and also purchases electricity from Chugach Electric and the Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project. Piped natural gas, provided by Enstar, is used to heat homes.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Wasilla is an inland community significantly involved in the fishing industry. This is an interesting phenomenon that shows the importance and scope of one of the most important traditional economic activities in Alaska. It also helps call into question the classic definition of fishing community as simply places in coastal areas with harbor facilities. This section gives a detailed description of Wasilla's participation in commercial fishing.

According to the official records in 2000, Wasilla had 119 commercial permit holders, holding 166 all-fisheries combined permits. In the city, 199 individuals were registered as crewmen and there were 10 federal fisheries vessel owners plus 44 owners of salmon vessels. Wasilla's fleet was involved, in one way or another, in most of the Alaskan fisheries: crab, sablefish, halibut, herring, other groundfish, other shellfish, and salmon. Below is a breakdown of the fleet by type of vessel, type of gear and, if available, landings per fished species.

Salmon: Salmon, by far, was the most important fishery in Wasilla. In 2000 the city had 102 permits (88 fished). There were 53 permits to fish with set gillnet: 30 issued and fished permits for Bristol Bay, 14 for Cook Inlet (6 fished), one permit for Prince William Sound (2 fished), 4 permits for the Lower Yukon River (2 fished), and 3 non-fished permits in Kuskokwin (one permit) and Kotzebue (two permits). The community also had 39 permits for drift gillnet: 13 permits for Prince William Sound (14 fished), 3 issued and used permits for Cook Inlet, 22 for Bristol Bay (22fished) and one fished permit for the Alaska Peninsula. There were also six permits to use purse seine gear: three permit for Prince William Sound and three permits for Kodiak waters. All of them were used. Finally,

there were three state-wide permits for hand troll (one fished), and two non-used permits for a fish wheel for the Upper Yukon River.

Herring: There were 11 herring permits issues (four fished). The records show a large number of permit types with few permits in each category. There were four permits for herring roe fished with purse seine gear: one for Prince William Sound, one for Cook Inlet, one for the Alaskan Peninsula, and one for Bristol Bay. Only the last one was actually fished. There were also seven issued permits for herring roe with gillnet: three for the Bristol Bay area (two fished), two for Security Cove (one fished), and two non-fished permits for Goodnews Bay and Norton Sound.

Halibut: The halibut fishery was a significant part of the small Wasilla fleet. It had 16 issued permits with statewide range (13 fished): there were 13 issued permits for longline vessels under 60 feet (11 fished), two permits for longline vessels over 60 feet (one fished), and one fished permit for a mechanical jig.

Groundfish: Groundfish fisheries accumulated an important number of permits. There were 24 issued permits, although only 11 of them were fished. In this case the statistics for groundfish fisheries includes only two main categories: lingcod, and miscellaneous saltwater finfish. There were three statewide permits for lingcod: one non-fished permit for a dinglebar troll and two permits for mechanical jig (one fished). The bulk of the groundfish fleet, 21 permits, were for miscellaneous saltwater finfish: six permits for longliners under 60 feet (none fished), two not-fished for vessels under 60 feet with pot gear, six for vessels with mechanical jig (five fished), one fished permit for otter troll, one non-fished permit for a longliner over 60 feet and, finally, a fished permit for pot gear in a vessel 60 feet or over. All of them had a statewide range.

Other Fisheries: Wasilla's permits affected also crab, sablefish and other shellfish. In the case of the sablefish fishery, there were eight permits: five for longline vessels under 60 feet (two were fished), one for fixed gear in a vessel under 50 feet (none were fished) and one fished permit for vessels with a maximum length of 35 feet. All of them were issued to fish in Prince William Sound.

Crab: There were also three permits for crab, although only one to catch Tanner crab in the Bering Sea with pot gear in a vessel over 60 feet was fished. The remaining two, issued to catch Dungeness crab with pot gear, were not fished: one for a vessel under 60 feet, the other for a vessel over 60 feet. Finally, there were two permits to catch other shellfish, in this case shrimp in Prince William Sound: one fished permit for otter trawl and one non-fished permit for pot gear in a vessel under 60 feet.

Sport Fisheries

In 2000 this community issued 19,949 sport fishing licenses; 13,003 were bought by Alaskan residents. The area thus is visited by numerous non-residents that get their licenses here or elsewhere. In 2002 the city had five licenses for businesses related to sport fishing as a tourist activity: four of them were focused on freshwater, while the other worked in saltwater fisheries.

It is important to mention the dual nature of recreational fishing in urban settings. On the one hand, this sector works on the commercialization of an individual productive activity turning it into a sport for locals or, mainly, visitors. On the other hand, it involves the individual who uses a sport fishing license for catching fish for normal household use. In this way, this second side of sport fishing plays the role that in rural settings is played by subsistence fishing.

Subsistence Fishing

Wasilla is legally part of the urban areas of Alaska. As a result, Wasilla residents are not eligible to harvest subsistence resources on federal lands. However, its inhabitants still engage in subsistence activities. In 1999, there were 70 permits issued by the state of Alaska to Wasilla residents to harvest subsistence salmon: this activity accounted for approximately 4,600 sockeye salmon. Other salmon species, to a lesser degree, were also part of local subsistence fishing activities. Although permits are issued to individuals, they represent household and family economies.

Although 70 permits is a very small number for a community of almost 5,500 inhabitants, it is worth mentioning that subsistence fishing, in urban settings, often is disguised as recreational fishing.

Willow (return to communities)

People and Place

Location

The unincorporated town of Willow lies inside the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (Mat-Su). It is considered an urban community, although it is located at the verge of urban Alaska, at the gate of the road to Denali National Park, between mile 60 and 80.7 of the George Parks Highway, north of Houston. It enjoys thus, a double character: a small community in an agriculture and tourist area that looks more rural than urban. Its western boundary is the Susitna River. The area encompasses close to 700 square miles.

Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Willow had 1,658 inhabitants. About 3.1% of the recorded inhabitants were Alaska Native, about 92.4% White, 0.2% Asian, 0.4% other, and 3.9% were two or more races. A total of 6% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. At the same time, 1.3% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic.

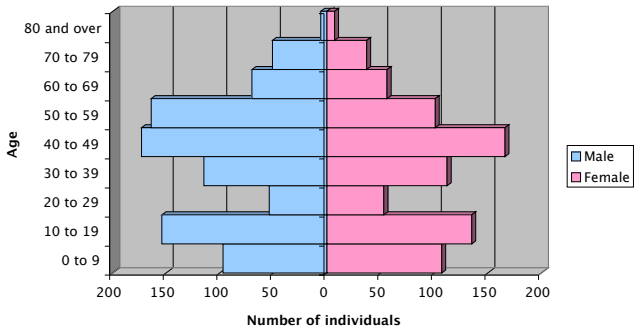
This community had a slightly unbalanced gender ratio: 53.3% of the population was male and 46.7% female. All residents lived in households and although there are no group quarters, a significant portion of housing units (57.3%) were vacant, almost all of them dedicated to seasonal use. The median age of this community is slightly older than the national: 40.1 years versus 35.3 years. The recent historical evolution of the census shows a huge increase in population in the last 10 years. The population went from 258 in the 1990s to 1,658 in the year 2000. The age structure showed that a large portion of the population, 45%, were between 35 and 60 years old. Approximately 29.8% were under 19 years old.

In regards to educational attainment, about 82.% of the population of Wasilla age 25 and over had graduated from high school and gone on to further schooling at the time of the 2000 census, 17.9% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher, and approximately 18% never completed the 12th grade.

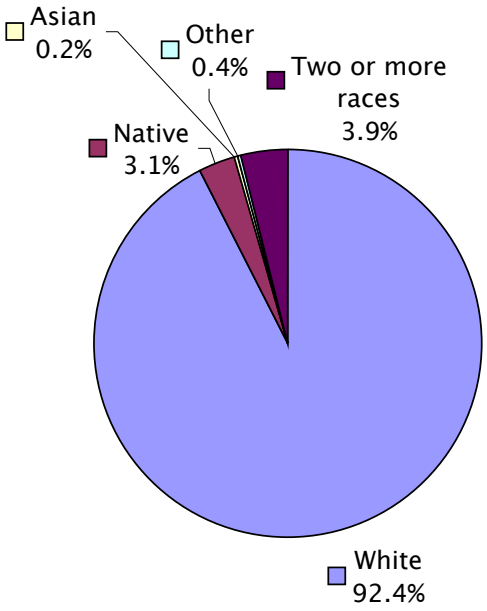
History

Along with most communities in the area, Willow was founded as a result of the late 19th century gold rush in Alaska. Before then, the area had been

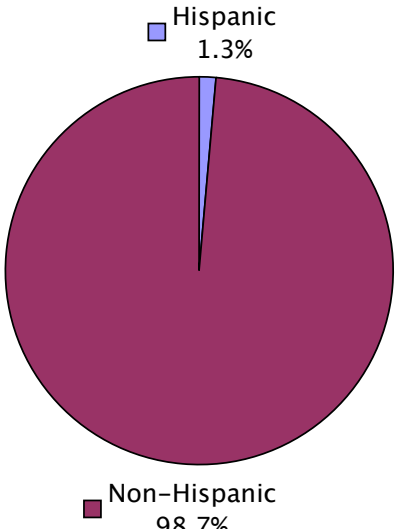
2000 Population Structure
Willow
Data source: US Census



2000 Racial Structure
Willow
Data source: US Census



2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Willow
Data source: US Census



occupied by Tanaina Athabascan groups living a semi-nomadic lifestyle and practicing hunting and gathering activities.

Willow was part of a network of trails (Double Ender Sled Trail and Talkeetna Trail) connecting mining fields, logging cabins, and fishing grounds. The construction of the Alaska Railroad spurred the growth of the city: surveyors, construction crews, homesteaders, and other settlers stayed and eventually settled in Willow. In 1920, a Railroad station house was constructed.

By 1954, Willow Creek was Alaska's largest gold mining district, with total production approaching 18 million dollars. In the early 1970s, the George Parks Highway, built on top of the old Talkeetna Trail, fueled the growth of the city by connecting Anchorage in the south with Fairbanks in the north, and passing by the entrance to Denali National Park. Commuting and tourism services become an important part of the city culture and economy. Nancy Lake is a nearby popular recreation site. Several residents participate in the Iditarod Sled Dog Race. In 1976, Alaskans selected Willow as the new State capital site; however, funding to enable the capital move was defeated in the November 1982 election.

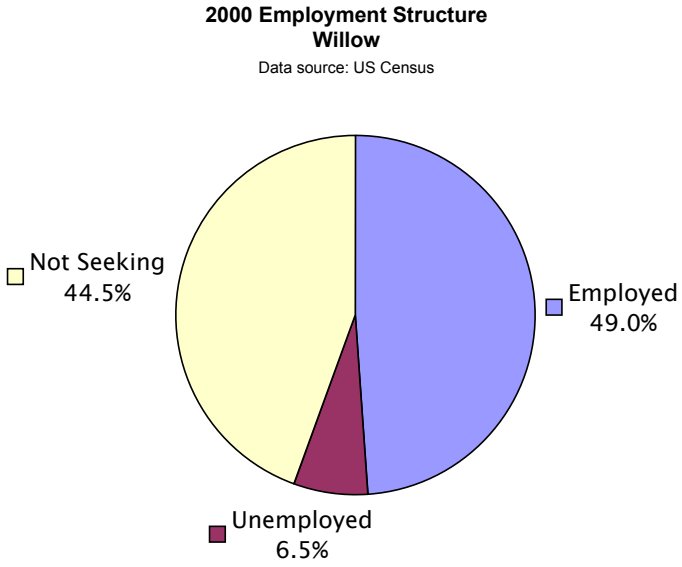
Infrastructure

Current Economy

Willow is a complex community that has undergone a wide transformation from its historical agricultural character to its current reliance on tourism. At the same time, its relative proximity to the most urbanized area of the state allows some of its residents to commute to Palmer, Wasilla, or even Anchorage.

An important measure of this emphasis on the tourism industry is the existence of almost 1,500 empty housing units available for seasonal use, as well as a myriad of small businesses offering tourism services including lodging, guide and charter services, transportation, and leisure in general.
The emphasis on tourism did not entirely displace "traditional" activities that are still practiced in the area. These include wood processing (with two sawmills and one prefabricated wood building manufacturer), farming, and commercial fishing (18 local residents hold commercial permits).

The employment structure of the community



shows that 49% of the total potential labor force was employed at the time of the 2000 census. About 6.5% of the total potential labor force was unemployed and 44.5% of the adult workforce was not searching for employment.

The median per capita income was $22,323 and the median household income was $38,906. In Willow, 22.1% of the population lived below the poverty level.

Governance

Willow is an unincorporated city and therefore it lacks its own local governing institution. In 1960, residents created the Willow Area Community Organization (WACO), located in the Mat-Su Borough. The closest offices of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) are in Anchorage.

Facilities

Willow is a community with many different transportation opportunities. Its location near the George Parks Highway gives its inhabitants access to the statewide highway system and the transportation facilities of Wasilla, Palmer, and Anchorage.
In addition, the area has two public airstrips available: one State-owned 4,400 foot gravel airstrip at Mile 69.7 Parks Highway and another at Deshka Landing, owned by the Department of Natural Resources. Finally, there are five additional private strips, and a seaplane base at Kashwitna Lake.

Most households in Willow use individual water wells and septic tanks and are fully plumbed. The

school operates its own water system. The community uses the Wasilla landfill for its waste. Power is provided by the Matanuska Electric Association.

The town has two schools with 180 students and 16 teachers. Junior high and high school students are bused south to Houston for school. Health care is provided by the Willow ambulance service and the Valley Hospital in Palmer. Willow does not have a local police force.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Although Willow is an inland community at the gates of the Denali route, there is still a significant portion of the population with an intense involvement in commercial fishing.

First, this section will provide a general characterization of the permits held by its inhabitants. According to official records in 2000, Willow had 18 commercial permit holders, with 43 all-fisheries combined permits (31 permits fished). Seventeen individuals were registered as crewmen and there were six federal fisheries vessel owners, plus six owners of salmon vessels. Willow's fleet was involved in most of the Alaskan fisheries: sablefish, halibut, herring, other groundfish, and Salmon. Below is a breakdown of the fleet by vessel, type of gear, location, and, if available, landings per fished species.

Groundfish: The groundfish fishery issued 14 permits (9 fished). The community had seven statewide permits to catch lingcod: two for mechanical jig (one fished), and five for longliners under 60 feet (four fished). It had six permits to catch miscellaneous saltwater finfish: one fished permit for longline vessels over 60 feet, and five permits for mechanical jig (three fished), all of them with statewide range. Finally, there was a non-fished permit to catch demersal shelf rockfish in the southeast with a longliner under 60 feet.

Salmon: The salmon fleet encompassed the larger part of Willow's effort on commercial fisheries. It accounted for 15 permits (14 fished). The reports account for five permits for drift gillnet: one for Cook Inlet, one for Bristol Bay, and three for the Alaskan Peninsula. The remaining ten permits were for set gillnet gear: seven for Cook Inlet, one for Bristol Bay, and two for the Lower Yukon River. Only one of the permits for the Alaska Peninsula was not fished in the year 2000.

Herring: Herring included three permits (two fished): one permit to catch herring roe with gillnet in Bristol Bay, one for Secret Cove, and a non-fished permit for Norton Sound.

Halibut: There were six issued permits for halibut fisheries (four fished): three permits for longline vessels over 60 feet (two fished), and three for longliners under 60 feet (two fished). All of them had statewide range.

Sablefish: There were only five permits in Willow for sablefish (two fished). They had statewide range and were for longline vessels under 60 feet.
There is no port in Willow, and therefore no registered landings.

Sport Fishing

In 2000 Willow issued 2,982 sport fishing licenses: 1,405 of them were bought by Alaska residents. The area is visited by numerous outsiders that get their permits here or elsewhere.

It is important to mention the dual nature of recreational fishing in urban settings. On the one hand, this sector works on the commercialization of an individual productive activity turning in it into a sport for visitors and locals. On the other hand, it involves the individual who uses a sport fishing license for catching fish for personal and household use. In this way, this second side of sport fishing plays the role that in rural settings is played by subsistence fishing.

In 2002 the village had five licenses for businesses related to sport fishing as a tourist activity: four were focused on freshwater fisheries and the third worked in saltwater fisheries.

Subsistence Fishing

We have no systematic data on subsistence productive activities practiced by the residents of Willow. The community, although physically in a rural setting, is part of the Mat-Su Borough and is officially considered urban territory. As a consequence, inhabitants are not entitled to implement subsistence practices in federal land.

With all probability, though, Willow's inhabitants are engaged at some level in subsistence harvesting. One piece of evidence of that continual connection of the community with subsistence economy is the existence of five salmon subsistence harvesting permits issued by the state. In 1999 they accounted for almost

1,000 fish caught, approximately 700 of which were sockeye salmon. The social range covered by these permits is larger than it might seem. Although permits are issued to individuals, they represent household and family economies.

Although five permits is a very small number for a community of 1,600 inhabitants, it is worth mentioning that subsistence fishing, in urban settings, often is disguised as recreational fishing.

4.2.2 Kodiak Island

Communities

Geographic Location

Kodiak Island is the second largest island in the United States encompassing approximately 3,500 square miles and spanning 100 miles in length. It is located across the Shelikof Strait from the Katmai Coast on the Alaska Peninsula, and is on the western edge of the Gulf of Alaska. The family of islands that make up the Kodiak Island Borough include Kodiak Island, Afognak Island, Sitkalidak Island, the Trinity Islands, Raspberry Island, Shuyak Island, and Marmot Island, along with many additional small islands. The total area of the borough is 6,559.8 square miles of land and 5,463.8 square miles of water. It is located at approximately 57.78333 °North Lat. and 152.4 °West Long. Kodiak Island is about 252 air miles south of Anchorage (a 55 minute flight).

Weather

Kodiak is protected from the extreme temperatures experienced on the mainland because of the strong marine influence in the area, with the Japanese current warming the island. Temperatures in the area usually range from 32 °F at the lowest to 62 ° F at the highest. There is frequent cloud cover on Kodiak Island as well as fog, with moderate rain, and rarely freezing temperatures. Harsh storms during the months of December through February are common with winds sometimes reaching 90 miles-per-hour. The weather can fluctuate substantially during the day, from windy to calm to rainy in quick succession. Alternatively, rain can fall for up to 50 consecutive days (Rennick 2002, p.9). On the windward side of the island, the yearly precipitation is 60 inches; approximately 40 inches on the leeward side. Intense winds and rain often cause airport closures or delays.

General Characterization

The area of Kodiak Island is very fisheries-dependant, with one of the largest fishing ports in the United States situated in the city of Kodiak. All outer island communities are dependent on commercial, sport, or subsistence fishing, or a combination of the three. Current and past commercial fishing operations brought a wide variety of people to the area where remnants of Russian occupation are evident. In 2000, about 60% of the population of the Borough was White, 17.6% Alaska Native, and 16% Asian. Of the 13,913 residents of the Kodiak Borough, as reported by the 2000 census, 46% lived in the city of Kodiak. About another 1,000 lived in the surrounding areas and 1,840 people lived on the U.S. Coast Guard Base, Kodiak Station. The rest of the population represents the unincorporated population of the island living in the bush, which, for the most part, is only accessible by boat or floatplane.

Institutional Framework

Kodiak Island Borough was incorporated in 1963. It includes Kodiak Island, the surrounding islands, and part of the Alaska Peninsula. The communities included in the Borough are Akhiok, Aleneva, Chiniak, Karluk, Kodiak, Kodiak Station, Larsen Bay, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie, Port Lions, Uganik, and Womens Bay. Kodiak Island Borough School District is comprised of a total of 15 schools consisting of 2,742 students and 191 teachers.

The Native regional corporation for the area is Koniag, Inc. whose 10-year plan focuses on more diversified investments in four areas: “operating companies with high potential for growth and return, sound real estate opportunities, a balanced securities portfolio and venture capital” in order to provide dividends to its shareholders (Koniag Inc. 2003). The corporation’s original share of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) settlement was “$23 million, 800 acres of land and the ‘subsurface estate’ of lands allocated to the village corporations within the region” (Koniag Inc. 2003). The Koniag Education Foundation, part of Koniag, Inc., provides scholarships and grants to Koniag shareholders

and their descendants for college, graduate school, vocational training, or career development courses (Koniag Inc. 2003).

The non-profit corporation for the area is the Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA) which provides a variety of services such as health services, education, employment and training, youth prevention, and tribal operations. According to their website, KANA serves about 3,500 Alaska Native/American Indians annually in their medical clinic. KANA received a grant from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council and was able to open the Alutiiq Museum and Archaeological Repository in 1995, a "state-of-the-art repository and regional research facility" (Kodiak Area Native Association 2003).

Commercial, Sport, and Subsistence Fisheries

Kodiak has a very diverse commercial fishing sector with both large and small vessels working with almost all species and gear types represented in the Alaskan fishing industries. There were quite a few processors on the island, 11 processors are located in the City of Kodiak which processed federal species in the year 2000 and a few additional processors are located in the city as well. One processor, Wards Cove Packing, located at Alitak Bay near Akhiok, recently shut down the operations of its salmon processing plants, along with other Wards Cove facilities across the state. The plant was recently purchased by Ocean Beauty Seafoods and is still in operation in Alitak Bay (James 2003). The employees of the processors on Kodiak Island are for the most part residents of the communities on the island, with the exception of the former Wards Cove Packing facility. Many of the facilities are in operation year round and this may explain the high amount of resident workers.

Sport fishing is a big attraction for visitors to Kodiak Island, also known as the 'Emerald Isle.' Many sport fishing activities are available in the city of Kodiak, and a variety of sport fishing services are available in other communities around the island. The main species of interest to sport fishers on Kodiak Island are salmon and halibut, but trout and Dolly Varden are fished as well.

Subsistence fishing is very important to residents of Kodiak Island. The use of all subsistence resources ranges from 96.2% of all households in Larsen Bay at the lowest and 100% for Akhiok, Karluk, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie, and Port Lions at the highest. The per capita use of subsistence resources for the most representative year in the city of Kodiak was about 151.05 lbs per year; the communities of Akhiok, Karluk, Ouzinkie, Old Harbor, Port Lions, and Larsen Bay ranged from 263.95 lbs per capita to 370.48 lbs. The subsistence harvesting of salmon plays a major role, making up a large percentage of the per capita harvest for each community.

Regional Challenges

The regional challenges for the Kodiak Island area have included problems brought on by the salmon market and low salmon prices. Recently the island communities of Akhiok, Kodiak, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie, Port Lions, and the Kodiak Island Borough were each allotted federal salmon disaster funds for a total of $688,867.73. The bulk of the money was awarded to the City of Kodiak and the Borough.

Steller sea lion regulations have also impacted the area as witnessed by the recent amounts allotted to both the City of Kodiak and the Borough by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference as part of the Federal Steller Sea Lion Mitigation program.

Akhiok (return to communities)

People and Place

Location

The community of Akhiok is situated on Alitak Bay on the southern end of Kodiak Island. It is in the Kodiak Recording District and part of the Kodiak Island Borough. The area of Akhiok includes 7.9 square miles of land and 2.5 square miles of water.

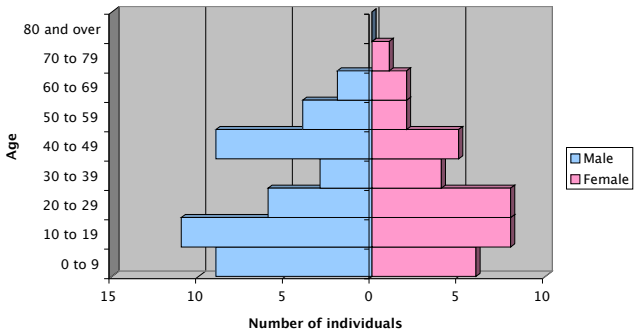
Demographic Profile

Akhiok had a total of 80 inhabitants according to the 2000U.S. Census. Of those, 55% were male and 45% were female. The population, when one was recorded, has remained relatively stable from 1880 to 2000. No population was recorded for 1890, 1900, 1930, and 1940. Since 1970 the population has decreased from the 115 persons recorded in 1970 to the 80 recorded in 2000. According to the Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development the certified population of Akhiok in 2002 was 48. In 2000, about 2.5% of the population identified as White, 86.3% American Indian and Alaska Native, 3.8% Filipino, and 7.5% two or more races. Approximately 93.8% of the population consisted of all or part Alaska Natives. About 1.3% of residents were Hispanic. The median age for the community was 24 years of age, which is significantly low compared to the national median of 35.3 years. In 2000 there were a total of 34 housing units in Akhiok; nine were vacant, two were vacant due to seasonal use. No one in the community lived in group quarters. Of the population age 25 years and over, about 73.7% had graduated from high school and gone on to further schooling. About 7.9% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher by 2000.

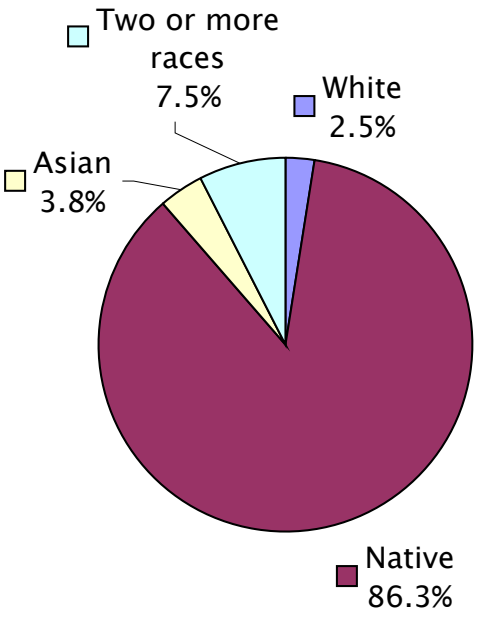
History

The history of Akhiok is intimately tied to the history of the city of Kodiak described in detail in the Kodiak profile. The village was originally located at Humpy Cove and was known as Kashukugniut, which was occupied in the early 19th century by Russians and was initially a sea otter hunting settlement. In 1880 the community was reported with the name Akhiok by the U.S. Census. The community was relocated in 1881 to its current site at Alitak Bay. Around 1900 a Russian Orthodox Church, Protection of the Theotokos Chapel, was built. In 1933 a post office was established in Akhiok. After the 1964 Good Friday

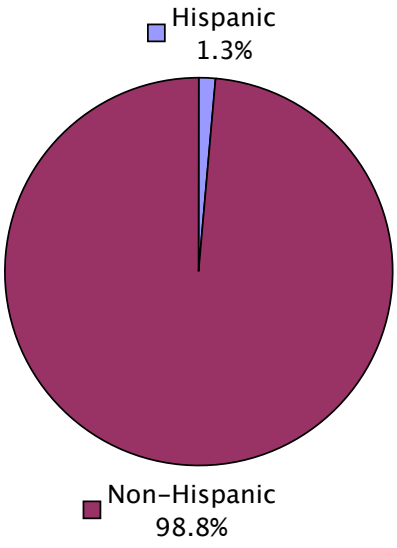
2000 Population Structure
Akhiok
Data source: US Census



2000 Racial Structure
Akhiok
Data source: US Census



2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Akhiok
Data source: US Census



Earthquake and subsequent tsunami, residents of the nearby community of Kaguyak relocated to Akhiok. In 1972 the city became incorporated.

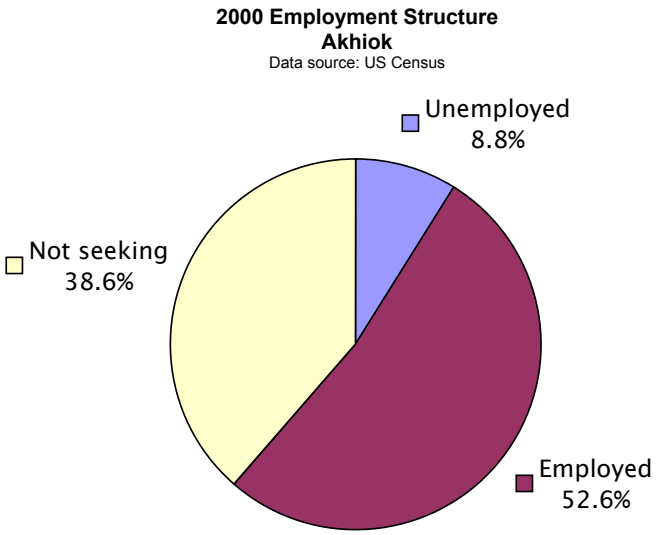
Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Akhiok depends on public sector employment, seasonal work, commercial fishing, and subsistence harvesting. The cash flow is provided by both public sector employment (60% of residents of Akhiok who were employed in 2000 were classified as government workers) and by seasonal work. A total of six commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of Akhiok and Alitak, and 12 residents of Akhiok were licensed crew members. Nearly all the residents of the community are dependent on subsistence hunting and fishing. Each Akhiok shareholder has received $200,000 since January 2003 from the sale of a $36 million dollar trust fund provided by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill settlement. The community is currently interested in the development of a fish smokery and a cold storage facility. Of those in the community age 16 and over, 52.6% were employed, 8.8% were not employed, and 38.6% were not in the labor force (i.e. not seeking employment) in 2000. The median per capita income was $8,472 and the median household income was $33,438. About 9.9% of the population lived below the poverty level.

Governance

Akhiok is a second-class city incorporated in 1974. It has a manager form of government including a mayor, seven-person city council, four-person advisory school board, and two municipal employees (a health aide and a Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO)). Akhiok is included in the Kodiak Island Borough. The city implements no taxes; however, the Borough implements a 9.25 mills (0.925%) property tax, 5% accommodations tax, and a 0.925% severance tax. The Native regional corporation in which Akhiok is included is Koniag Inc., and the non-profit is Kodiak Area Native Association. The Native village corporation is named Akhiok-Kaguyak, Inc. is the merged corporations of the communities of Akhiok and Kaguyak. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Recognized Traditional Council for the village is the Native Village of Akhiok. The closest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G), and Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) offices are all located within the City of Kodiak.



Facilities

Akhiok is accessible by both air and water. The 3,320 foot gravel runway is owned by the state. There is a seaplane base, owned by Columbia Ward Fisheries, located at Moser Bay. Regular flights are available for around $263 from Anchorage to Kodiak, according to Expedia and Travelocity websites (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible). Then there is the additional cost to fly into Akhiok from Kodiak by charter plane. Regular and charter flights are available from the City of Kodiak. The current dock structure in the community is temporary. A breakwater and boat launch is available, while barge services are sporadic. Accommodations in Akhiok are available at the Community Building. Police services are provided by a State VPSO. Health care is available from the Akhiok Health Clinic, which is owned by the city and operated by both the City and KANA. Alternate health care is available by the Akhiok Village Response Team. There is one K-12 school that had a total of 16 students and two teachers in 2000. The electric utility is the City of Akhiok operated with diesel power. The City is also the water system operator, the sewer system operator, refuse collector, and landfill operator. All the homes in the community are serviced by piped water and sewer systems; however, residents are boiling their drinking water as a new water source is needed. The water presently comes from a dam and reservoir on a stream.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing*

There were a total of 6 commercial fishing permits issued to residents of Akhiok and Alitak in 2000, and 12 residents of Akhiok were licensed crew members. There were no vessel owners residing in Akhiok in 2000. One commercial fishing permit was issued to a resident for other groundfish, specifically for miscellaneous salt water finfish using a mechanical jig statewide (not fished). Five permits were issued for the commercial fishing of salmon, specifically using set gillnets around Kodiak (six fished). There were no landings in Akhiok because no processor was present in the community; however, a processor was present at nearby Alitak Bay.

The City of Akhiok was recently allotted $531 in federal salmon disaster funds and the Kodiak Island Borough was allotted $362,963, which will most likely be applied to projects within the borough. The salmon disaster funds have been awarded because of the recent drop in salmon prices because of competition with foreign farmed salmon. The Kodiak Island Borough was also recently granted $69,687 by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference as part of the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation program "in recognition of the negative economic impacts of federal measures to protect the Steller sea lion" with money which had been allocated by the U.S. government (Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference 2003).

Sport Fishing

There is no evidence of sport fishing in Akhiok, although Kodiak is famous for its sport fishing, so it is possible that visitors do travel to the Akhiok area. There were no sport fishing businesses reported by the ADF&G in 2002, and no sport fishing licenses were sold in 2000.

Subsistence Fishing

According to the ADF&G's Division of Subsistence 100% of all households in Akhiok used some type of subsistence resource. Salmon was by 100% of households, 87.5% used non-salmon fish (herring, herring roe, smelt, cod, eel, flounder, greenling, halibut, perch, rockfish, sablefish, sculpin, shark, skates, sole, wolf fish, char, grayling, and trout), 70.8% used marine mammals, and 100% of all households used marine invertebrates. The per capita harvest of all subsistence resources was 321.69 lbs in the community in 1992. The breakdown of that harvest was 62.02% salmon, 7.57% non-salmon fish, 6.03% marine mammals, 13.10% marine invertebrates, 1.08% birds and eggs, 8.74% land mammals, and 1.46% vegetation. According to the ADF&G, five household permits were issued for subsistence salmon to residents of Akhiok in 1999 for an estimated harvest of 300 total salmon, the majority of which was sockeye salmon. Residents of Akhiok do have the right to apply for halibut subsistence certificates.

* Commercial fishing permit data from the CFEC is given for the communities of Akhiok and Alitak

Alitak Bay (return to communities)

A full profile was not completed for Alitak Bay because sufficient information could not be obtained. Alitak Bay was selected for profiling because it was the site of a processor that had fish landings in 2000 (see selection criteria in methods section). However, since it is not treated as a community by the U.S. Census, the Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development, nor other data sources, it was not possible to gather the same sorts of information on Alitak Bay that is contained in the other profiles.

Evidence of ancient occupation is contained in petroglyphs at the entrance to the bay. The area is the site of a mixed gear, mixed stock salmon run managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The processor in Alitak Bay is currently owned by Ocean Beauty Seafoods, which processes herring roe, halibut, Pacific cod, and shortspine thornyhead or "idiot" fish, as well as sockeye, pink, coho, and chum salmon. A cannery has been operating in the area called Lazy Bay since at least the 1950s. There are no roads or runways in Alitak Bay, but there is a seaplane base and access by boat. The nearest community is Akhiok. The nearest community hub is Kodiak.

Fisheries information for Alitak Bay is included in the Akhiok profile.

Karluk (return to communities)

People and Place

Location

The community of Karluk is situated on the Karluk River on the west side of Kodiak Island. The community is 88 air miles southwest of Kodiak and 301 miles southwest of Anchorage. It is in the Kodiak Recording District and the Kodiak Island Borough. Karluk includes 57.7 square miles of land and 2.3 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

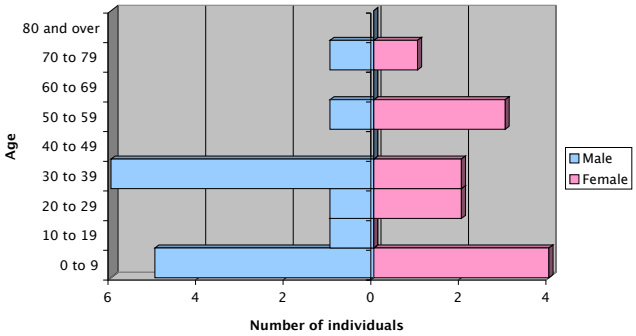
According to the 2000 U.S. Census there were 27 residents of Karluk. The population has fluctuated extremely since 1890 when there were a reported 1,123 inhabitants. Since approximately 1930 the population has steadily decreased. Males made up 55.6% of the population in 2000, and females made up 44.4%. About 96.3% of the residents were American Indian or Alaska Native and 3.7% (one resident) was Asian. No one in the community was Hispanic. The median age in Karluk in 2000 was 30.3 years. There were a total of 24 housing units in the community; however, 15 were vacant, 6 due to seasonal use. No one in the community lived in group quarters. Of the population age 25 years and over, 77.8% had graduated from high school and gone on to higher schooling. About 27.8% had attended some college, but had not obtained a degree.

History

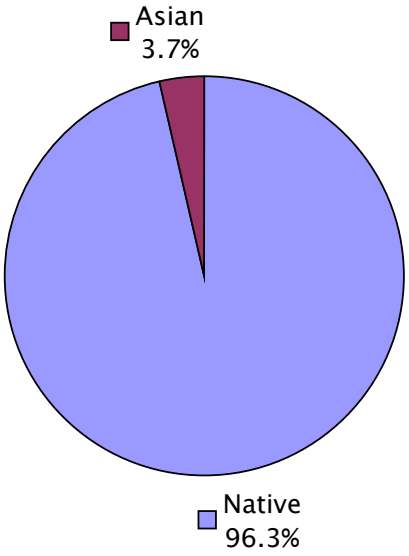
The history of Karluk is intimately tied to the history of the City of Kodiak described in detail in the Kodiak profile. For more than 7,000 years it is believed that the area around the mouth of the Karluk River has been occupied by Alutiiq native peoples. There are 36 registered archaeological sites existent in the area. In 1786, Russian hunters established a trading post; however, at that time the settlement was situated in the area of Karluk Lagoon, on both sides of the Karluk River.

Numerous canneries, salteries, and tanneries were established in the area from 1790 to 1850, and by 1800 Karluk had a reputation for having the greatest salmon stream in the world as well as the largest cannery. In 1892 the post office was established. The Alaska Packers Association constructed canneries in the area in the early 1900s, but because of over-fishing the

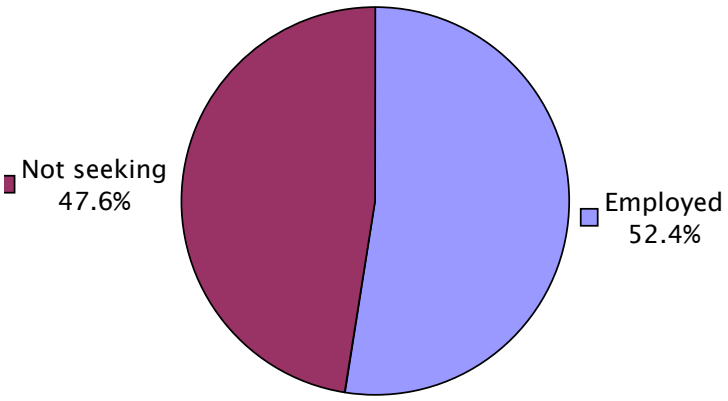
2000 Population Structure
Karluk
Data source: US Census



2000 Racial Structure
Karluk
Data source: US Census



2000 Employment Structure
Karluk
Data source: US Census



canneries were forced to close in the late 1930s.

The village council decided to relocate the community in January of 1978 to its present site after a severe storm including "gale-force winds and high seas" (North Pacific Fishery Management Council 1994). The new site was situated upstream from the old site, on the south side of the lagoon. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) constructed 23 houses at the new site.

In recent years, due to low enrollment, the school in Karluk was closed, including the 1999/2000 and 2002/2003 school years. There are a few high school students who attend Mount Edgecumbe School in Sitka.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Karluk is based on fish processing. Kodiak Salmon Packers, Inc. is co-owned by the Karluk, Larsen Bay, and Old Harbor village corporations. Residents of the community use subsistence resources. Of the population aged 16 years and over, 52.4% were employed and 47.6% were not in the labor force in 2000. Of those who were employed about 81.8% were classified as government workers. The high percentage of the population not in the labor force could possibly reflect those involved in seasonal fish processing who were not in the labor force at the time of the Census. The median per capita income in Karluk was $13,736 in 2000, whereas the median household income was $19,167. No one in the population was below the poverty level at the time of the 2000 census.

Governance

Karluk is unincorporated and therefore no city or borough officials are present in the community. Karluk is included in the Kodiak Island Borough. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Recognized IRA Council/Village Council for the village is the Native Village of Karluk, which operates many of the services usually run by the city, such as the wash system, sewer system, and health clinic. The regional Native corporation for the area is Koniag, Inc., and the non-profit is the Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA). Karluk does not have an individual village corporation. Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) land was appropriated to Koniag, Inc. The closest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G), and Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) offices are all located within the city of Kodiak.

Facilities

Karluk is reachable by both the air and water. A 2,000 foot State-owned gravel airstrip is located in the community and a seaplane base is located at Karluk Lake. There are regular and charter flights which travel to the community from the City of Kodiak. Regular flights are available for around $263 from Anchorage to Kodiak, according to Expedia and Travelocity websites (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible). Then there is the additional cost to fly into Karluk from Kodiak by charter plane. Twice a month there is barge service from Kodiak and the goods are lightered by skiff to shore. There is currently no dock; however, funds have been requested for the construction of a dock. Accommodations for visitors are available in the Karluk Lodge. The local school has not been open in recent years because of low enrollment. Karluk is part of the Kodiak Island Borough School District and students possibly attend another nearby school. Some high school students attend Mount Edgecumbe School in Sitka. Health care is available at the Karluk Health Clinic, which is owned and operated by the Village Council. In 1994 the clinic was renovated, but recently funds have been given to construct a new clinic. There are no police services in Karluk. The electric utility for the area is the Alutiiq Power Company, which is operated by the Village Council with diesel as the main power source. Refuse collection is up to the individuals and the landfill is operated by the Village Council; however, the landfill is on a temporary unpermitted site. All the houses which are occupied in Karluk are equipped with full plumbing. The Village Council operates the water system and sewer system as well.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

No residents of Karluk held commercial fishing permits in 2000, but six residents were licensed crew members (22.22% of the population). There were no vessel owner residents of Karluk that were involved in either the federal fisheries or in the salmon fishery in 2000. No vessels delivered landings to the community

because there was no processor located in Karluk.

The Kodiak Island Borough was recently allotted $362,963 in federal salmon disaster funds which will most likely be applied to projects within the borough. The salmon disaster funds have been awarded because of the recent drop in salmon prices attributed to competition with foreign farmed salmon. The Kodiak Island Borough was also recently granted $69,687 by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference as part of the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation program "in recognition of the negative economic impacts of federal measures to protect the Steller sea lion" with money which had been allocated by the United States government (Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference 2003).

Sport Fishing

Sport fishing seems to be quite prevalent in Karluk for a community which has a comparatively small population. In 2000 there was a total of 87 sport fishing licenses sold in Karluk and of those 79 were sold to non-residents of Alaka. According to the ADF&G there were a few sport fishing businesses present in the community in 2002; one was listed as a saltwater guide business, four listed as freshwater guide businesses, one listed as a saltwater fishing charter service, and two lodge/resort listings.

Subsistence Fishing

According to the ADF&G Division of Subsistence in Karluk in 1991, 100% of all households used some type of subsistence resources. All households used salmon (100%), 100% used non-salmon fish (herring, cod, flounder, greenling, halibut, rockfish, sablefish, sculpin, skates, sole, char, and trout), 38.5% used marine mammals, and 84.6% of all households used marine invertebrates. The per capita harvest of all subsistence resources was 268.71 lbs in the community in 1993.The breakdown of that harvest was 71.53% salmon, 11.17% non-salmon fish, 0.35% marine mammals, 1.61% marine invertebrates, 0.42% birds and eggs, 11.09% land mammals, and 3.82% vegetation. In addition, one household permit was issued for subsistence salmon to a resident of Karluk in 1999 for an estimated harvest of 77 total salmon, of which the majority was sockeye. Residents of Karluk have the right to apply for halibut subsistence certificates.

Kodiak (return to communities)

People and Place

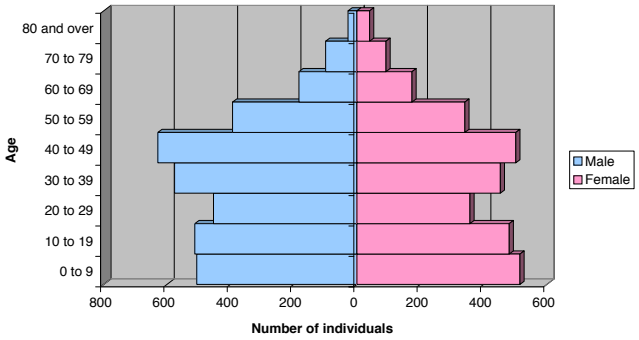
Location

The city of Kodiak is located close to the eastern tip of Kodiak Island. Kodiak Island is located in the Gulf of Alaska and is the largest island in Alaska. Residents refer to Kodiak as 'the Emerald Isle'. The community is 252 air miles south of Anchorage and is located in the Kodiak Recording District. It is made up of 3.5 square miles of land and 1.4 square miles of water.

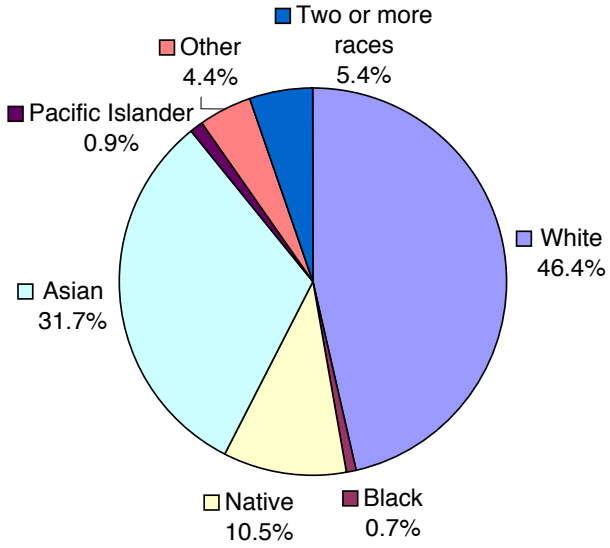
Demographic Profile

There were 6,334 inhabitants of Kodiak as recorded by the 2000 U.S. Census, and of those 53.3% were male and 46.7% were female. A population was first recorded by the Census for Kodiak in1890, reporting 495 inhabitants at that time. Until 1930 the population remained relatively stable, doubling in 1940 to 864 inhabitants, then continuing to grow substantially. In 2000 it decreased slightly from the 6,365 people reported in 1990 to 6,334. There is a large seasonal population in the community which was most likely not recorded by the Census. Of the total population reported in 2000, individuals identified as 46.4% White, 0.7% Black, 10.5% American Indian and Alaska Native, 31.7% Asian (29.2% of those reported as Asian were Filipino), 0.9% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, 4.4% other, and 5.4% two or more races. A total of 13.1% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. About 8.5% of the population was Hispanic. The median age of Kodiak was 33.5 years versus the national median of 35.3 years. About 70.9% of the population of Kodiak was 18 years of age or older. There were a total of 2,255 housing units in the city in 2000 - 259 were vacant and 32 of those were vacant due to seasonal use. Out of the total population of 6,334, there were 6,188 people living in households and 146 people living in group quarters. Of the population 25 years of age and over in Kodiak, 78.6% had graduated from high school and gone on to further schooling, 17.2% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher, and 5.4% had a graduate or professional degree at the time of the 2000 U.S. Census.

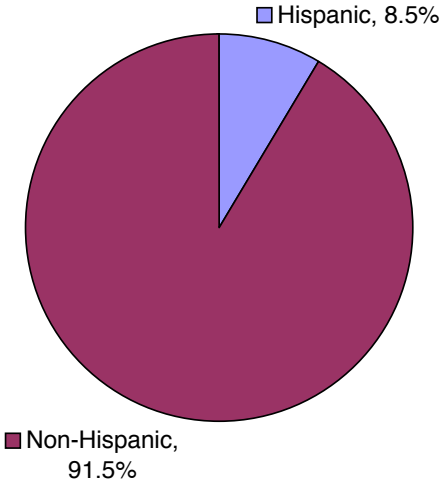
2000 Population Structure
Kodiak
Data source: US Census



2000 Racial Structure
Kodiak
Data source: US Census



2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Kodiak
Data source: US Census

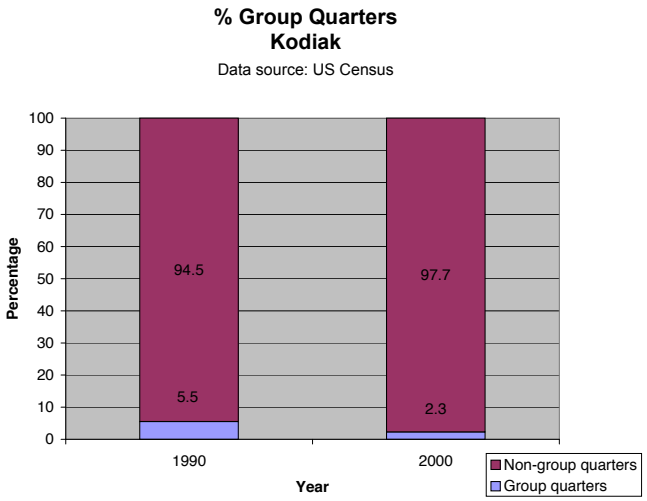


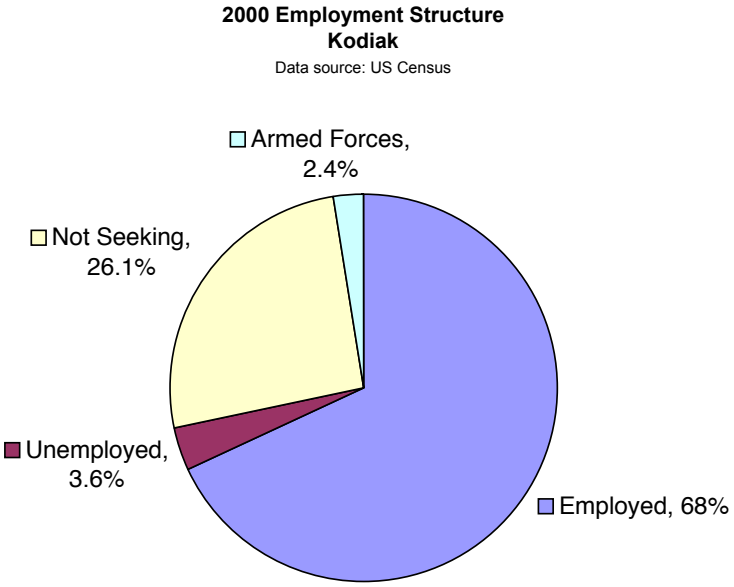
History

Kodiak Island has been populated for approximately 8,000 years. According to some archaeologists "the ancestors of the present-day Native Alaskan residents of the Alutiiq culture area have continuously inhabited the area for at least 7,000 years" (Mason 1995). Alutiiq is the more recent term used for the culture and the language of the "group of Alaska Native people indigenous to the Kodiak Island Archipelago, the southern coast of the Alaska Peninsula, Prince William Sound, and the lower tip of the Kenai Peninsula" (Mason 1995). By about A.D. 1200 the island may have had a population of about 14,000 Alutiiq inhabitants which is similar to the total number of inhabitants today on Kodiak (Rennick 2002, p. 24).

At the time of Russian contact, those living on Kodiak Island were the Koniags (the Alutiiq of Kodiak Island and the Alaska Peninsula) of which there were 10,000 or more (Korsmo 1994). The first contact was in 1763 by Stephen Glotov. A Russian settlement was established at Three Saints Bay by Gregorii Shelikof in 1784 where the Native population was forced to hunt sea otter. Prior to this hundreds of Alutiiq Natives were killed attempting to hide from Shelikof's party, but the Alutiiqs were dominated by the Russians using muskets and cannons (Mason 1995). Shelikof was recalled back to Russia and in 1792 Alexander Baranov, a fur trapper, established a trading post at St. Paul Harbor, which is the site of the city of Kodiak today. Kodiak became the capital of the Russian colony and at that time was called "Kikhtak" and later "Kadiak," the Inuit word for island. Russian Orthodox clergymen arrived as missionaries around 1794. There were more than 6,500 Koniags in the area at that time, but by the end of Russian control of the island in 1867 the population had decreased to around 2,000 because of "hardship, accidents, and starvation, along with diseases introduced by the Russians" (Mason 1995).

Alaska became a U.S. Territory in 1867. Sea otter harvesting was still the major commercial enterprise of the area, although this quickly led to the near extinction of the animals. In 1882 a fish cannery opened at the Karluk spit which began the development of commercial fishing in the Kodiak area. Many canneries opened by the 1890's, mainly for harvested salmon. Kodiak was incorporated in 1940. During WWII, Kodiak was a key operations area throughout the Aleutian Campaign. Both the Navy and Army built





bases on the island, causing the population of Kodiak to sky-rocket to more than 25,000 during the war. After the war, the Navy base became a Coast Guard base and is now is the largest such base in the world.

The 1960's brought growth to Kodiak in terms of fish processing and commercial fishing, but in 1964 on Good Friday a 9.2 magnitude earthquake hit the islands and caused a chain of tsunamis. One of the waves reached 35 feet above mean low tide damaging Kodiak's central business district and waterfront, destroying the villages of Kaguyak, Old Harbor (other than the church), and Afognak (so severely damaged that residents were permanently relocated to the new community of Port Lions). In Kodiak, $30 million in damage was caused by the tsunami: 158 homes were destroyed, and the fishing fleet, processing plant, and canneries were all destroyed. By 1968 the city had been rebuilt to become the largest fishing port in terms

of dollar value in the U.S. With the passing of the Magnuson Act in 1976, foreign fleet competition was reduced and the city was able to develop a groundfish processing industry.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

Kodiak's economy is based on fishing, seafood processing, retail, and government employment. A total of 1,569 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of Kodiak in the year 2000 and many fish processors operate in Kodiak including but not limited to: Cook Inlet Processors, North Pacific, Ocean Beauty, Trident, and International Seafoods. A total of 1,263 residents of Kodiak were licensed crew members in 2000. In addition to fishing and processing, the City and the hospital are also top employers of those in the community. A $38 million low-Earth orbit launch facility, the Kodiak Launch Complex, is located near Chiniak and the largest U.S. Coast Guard station is located south of the city. Subsistence is also important to residents of the community.

Of the population age 16 and over in Kodiak in 2000; 68.0% were employed, 3.6% were unemployed, 2.4% were in the armed forces, and 26.1% were not in the labor force. The median household income in the year 2000 was $60,484 with the per capita income having been $21,522. About 7.4% of those in Kodiak were below the poverty level in 2000.

Governance

Kodiak is a Home Rule city which was incorporated in 1940 and has a Manager form of government that includes a mayor, a six person city council, and a variety of municipal employees. There is a 6% sales tax for a maximum of $30 per transaction, a property tax of 2 mills (0.2%) by the City and 9.25 mills (0.925%) by the Borough, and a 5% accommodations tax imposed by the City and the Borough. Kodiak is part of the Kodiak Island Borough. The regional Native corporation for the area is Koniag, Inc., and the non-profit half of Koniag, Inc. is the Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA). The Native urban corporation for the area is called the Natives of Kodiak, Inc. and is one of four Native urban corporations established in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). The Native village corporations in Kodiak are Shuyak, Inc., Bells Flats Natives, Inc., and Litnik, Inc. The Shoonaq' Tribe of Kodiak is the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized traditional council for the village which was federally recognized in 2001. The closest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G), and Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) offices are all located within the city of Kodiak. The new NOAA research vessel, the Oscar Dyson, is to be home-ported in Kodiak.

Facilities

Kodiak City is reachable by both air and sea and also by 140 miles of state paved and unpaved roads from the other cities on the east side of the island. The Kodiak Airport has a 7,500 foot paved runway which is owned by the State. The Municipal Airport has a 2,475 foot paved runway as well. According to Travelocity and Expedia the approximate cost to fly to Anchorage roundtrip from Kodiak is $263 (price given for date as close to September 1st 2003 as possible). There are three airlines serving Kodiak with several daily flights, and there are quite a few air taxi services which fly to other communities on the island. There are also seaplane bases at Trident Basin and Lilly Lake which are both city-owned. Ferry service is operated by the Alaska Marine Highway System both to and from Seward and Homer (12 hour travel time). There are two boat harbors in Kodiak with 600 boat slips and three commercial piers, but boat launch ramps and vessel haulouts are available as well. A $20 million breakwater on Near Island which was recently completed provides another 60 acres of mooring space. The float system at St. Paul Harbor has had funds provided to replace the aging system.

Accommodations in Kodiak are available at the R&R Lodge, Russian Heritage Inn, The Shelikof Lodge, The Kodiak Inn, Wintel's B&B, Inlet Guest Rooms, Kodiak Buskin River Inn, VFW RV Park, and the Afognak Wilderness Lodge. Health care is available at Providence Kodiak Island Medical Center, Alutiiq Health Clinic, and the Coast Guard Integrated Support Center/Rockmore-King Medical Clinic. There is a City Police Department as well as a State Troopers Post in Kodiak. The electric utility in the community is the Kodiak Electric Association operated by REA Co-op with the main power source being hydroelectric. The City operates the water and sewer systems, although the Borough collects refuse and operates the landfill. There were six schools in Kodiak in 2000 with a total of 2,252 students and 137 teachers.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing*

Kodiak is the state's largest fishing port where many diverse species of fish are harvested and delivered by almost every possible gear group. There were 1,569 commercial fishing permits issued to residents of Kodiak in 2000, and a reported 1,263 licensed crew members residing in the community. There were 256 vessel owners who were residents of the city of Kodiak participating in the federal commercial fisheries. An estimated 187 participated in the commercial salmon fishery. Of the total 1,569 permits issued, 948 were fished in 2000. There were 119 crab permits issued to residents, 285 for halibut, 152 for herring, 540 for other groundfish, 67 for other shellfish, 58 for sablefish, and 348 were issued for salmon.

Crab: There were 119 crab permits issued to residents of Kodiak (82 fished): 23 were issued for Dungeness crab using pot gear on a vessel under 60 feet westward (6 fished), one for Dungeness crab using pot gear on a vessel under 60 feet on the Alaska Peninsula (none fished), one for Dungeness crab using pot gear on a vessel over 60 feet in Cook Inlet (none fished), 8 for Dungeness crab using pot gear on a vessel over 60 feet westward (5 fished), 2 for king crab using pot gear on a vessel under 60 feet in Bristol Bay (one fished), 2 for king crab using pot gear on a vessel over 60 feet by Kodiak (one fished), 5 for king crab using pot gear on a vessel over 60 feet in the Bering Sea (none fished), 38 for king crab using pot gear on a vessel over 60 feet in Bristol Bay (33 fished), 38 for Tanner crab using pot gear on a vessel over 60 feet in the Bering Sea (35 fished), and one permit was issued for Tanner crab using pot gear on a vessel over 60 feet for the Bering Sea Community Development Quota (CDQ) (one fished).

Halibut: Of the 285 halibut permits issued, 236 were fished. One hundred and sixty-two permits were issued for halibut using a longline vessel under 60 feet statewide (138 fished), 25 using a mechanical jig statewide (15 fished), and 98 using a longline vessel over 60 feet statewide (83 fished).

Herring: Of the 152 herring permits issued in 2000, only 37 were fished. For herring roe: one permit was issued using a purse seine in the southeast (one fished), 11 using a purse seine in Prince William Sound (none fished), 9 using a purse seine in Cook Inlet (none fished), 34 using a purse seine in Kodiak (9 fished), 2 using a purse seine in the Alaska Peninsula (none fished), 22 using a purse seine in Bristol Bay (17 fished), one using a gillnet and purse seine in Kodiak (none fished), 48 using a gillnet in Kodiak (6 fished), one using a gillnet on the Alaska Peninsula (none fished), 2 using a gillnet in Security Cove (one fished), 5 using a gillnet in Bristol Bay (one fished), and one for herring roe using a gillnet in Norton Sound (none fished). In regards to herring food or bait; two permits were issued for herring food/bait using a purse seine in the southeast (none fished), one using a purse seine in Prince William Sound (none fished), five using a purse seine in Kodiak (none fished), five using a purse seine on the Alaska Peninsula (two fished), and two using an otter trawl in Kodiak (none fished).

Groundfish: Out of the 540 other groundfish permits issued to residents of Kodiak in 2000, 280 were fished. One was issued for lingcod using a dinglebar troll statewide (none fished), 12 for lingcod using a mechanical jig statewide (one fished), and two for lingcod using pot gear on a vessel over 60 feet statewide (none fished). For miscellaneous saltwater finfish, one permit was issued using a purse seine statewide (none fished), 34 using a hand troll statewide (9 fished), 72 using longline on a vessel under 60 feet statewide (43 fished), 40 using an otter trawl statewide (33 fished), 78 using pot gear on a vessel under 60 feet statewide (48 fished), 207 for a mechanical jig statewide (84 fished), 21 for longline on a vessel over 60 feet statewide (7 fished), and 70 using pot gear on a vessel 60 feet or over statewide (55 fished). For demersal shelf rockfish, one permit was issued for longline on a vessel under 60 feet in the southeast (none fished) and one using mechanical jig in the southeast (none fished).

Other Shellfish: Of the 67 other shellfish permits issued, 26 were fished. No permits were issued for geoduck clams using diving gear in the southeast, but one permit was fished by a resident of the community. For octopi or squid three permits were issued using longline on a vessel under 60 feet statewide (none fished), 21 using pot gear on a vessel under 60 feet statewide (10 fished), and 10 using pot gear on a vessel over 60 feet statewide (3 fished). For shrimp, one permit was issued using an otter trawl westward (none fished), 9 using pot gear on a vessel under 60 feet westward (none fished), one using pot gear in

* Commercial fishing permit data from the CFEC is given for the communities of Chiniak and Kodiak

the southeast (none fished), and 4 using pot gear on a vessel over 60 feet westward (one fished). Two permits were issued for sea cucumbers using diving gear in the southeast (one fished) and 10 were issued for sea cucumbers using diving gear statewide excluding the southeast (7 fished). One permit was issued for clams using a shovel to a resident of Kodiak, but was not fished. In regards to sea urchins, no permits were issued using diving gear in the southeast but one was fished, and four were issued using diving gear statewide excluding the southeast (two fished). One permit was issued for scallops dredging statewide (one fished).

Sablefish: Of the 58 total sablefish permits issued, 40 were fished. A total of 33 permits were for longline on a vessel under 60 feet statewide (21 fished), one was using a mechanical jig statewide (none fished), 23 were using longline on a vessel over 60 feet statewide (19 fished), and one was issued using pot gear on a vessel over 60 feet statewide (none fished).

Salmon: Out of the 348 salmon permits issued to residents of Kodiak, 247 were fished. Four permits were issued for salmon using a purse seine in the southeast (3 fished), one using a purse seine in Prince William Sound (none fished), 174 using a purse seine in Kodiak (105 fished), 9 using a purse seine in Chignik (11 fished), one using a purse seine in the Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands (none fished), 16 using a beach seine in Kodiak (2 fished), 4 using a drift gillnet in Prince William Sound (4 fished), 7 using a drift gillnet in Cook Inlet (6 fished), 4 using a drift gillnet on the Alaska Peninsula (4 fished), 29 using a drift gillnet in Bristol Bay (25 fished), 87 using a set gillnet in Kodiak (76 fished), 9 using a set gillnet in Bristol Bay (10 fished), 3 using a hand troll statewide (none fished), and no permits were issued using a set gillnet in the Kuskokwim, but one was fished by a resident of the community.

With regard to landings, 455 vessels participated in other groundfish fisheries and delivered landings to Kodiak totaling 102,318.27 tons in groundfish landings in 2000. There were 108 vessels which delivered 1,542.49 tons of sablefish. A total of 298 vessels delivered 4,352.30 tons of halibut, 32 vessels delivered 1,041.98 tons of Bering Sea Aleutian Islands (BSAI) crab, 331 vessels delivered 23,759.03 tons of salmon, and 26 vessels delivered 951.34 tons of herring. In accordance with confidentiality regulations, landings data for scallops in Kodiak are unavailable because there were only two vessels that delivered scallops to the community. The total amount landed in federal species in Kodiak in 2000 was 109,255.03 tons.

Kodiak is a major processing center where all species including BSAI crab, groundfish, halibut, herring, sablefish, salmon, and scallops are processed. There are quite a few processors in the community including 11 that processed federal species in 2000. Some of the processors in Kodiak include Alaska Fresh Processors Inc., Global Seafoods Kodiak LLC, Island Seafoods Inc., Kodiak Salmon Packers Inc., Tt Acquisition Inc., and Western Alaska Fisheries Inc., with the largest processors in Kodiak being Cook Inlet Processors, International Seafoods, Ocean Beauty, North Pacific, and Trident. Production runs year-round at many of the facilities and the workforce population most likely runs in the thousands with a large amount of the work force being residents of the communities of the island. There is a large subculture of Filipino employees in Kodiak because of their work in the canneries.

The City of Kodiak was recently allotted $321,521 in federal salmon disaster funds and the Kodiak Island Borough was allotted $362,963.14, which will most likely be applied to projects within the borough. The City of Kodiak was also recently granted $31,221 by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference as part of the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation program "in recognition of the negative economic impacts of federal measures to protect the Steller sea lion" with money which had been allocated by the U.S. government (Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference 2003). The Borough was granted $69,687 from the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation program.

Sport Fishing

Kodiak is famous for sport fishing. The community had a large amount of sport fishing businesses listed in 2002 with a wide variety of services including saltwater guide businesses, freshwater guide businesses, aircraft fly-in services, drop-off services, and full service guide businesses. There were 11,331 sport fishing licenses sold in Kodiak in 2000, of which 5,030 were sold to Alaska residents. There is a variety of sport fishing activities held in the community such as the Kodiak Kid's Pink Salmon Jamboree and the Silver Salmon Derby.

Subsistence Fishing

According to the ADF&G's Division of Subsistence in the city of Kodiak for the most representative

subsistence year,1993, 99% of all households in Kodiak used all subsistence resources: 93.3% of households used salmon, 95.2% non-salmon fish (herring, herring roe, smelt, cod, flounder, greenling, halibut, perch, rockfish, sablefish, sculpin, shark, skates, sole, wolffish, char, grayling, pike, trout, and whitefish), 1.9% marine mammals, and 79.0% of all households used marine invertebrates. The per capita harvest of all subsistence resources was 151.05 lbs in 1993. The breakdown of that harvest was: 31.61% salmon, 39.70% non-salmon fish, 0% marine mammals, 6.29% marine invertebrates, 0.44% birds and eggs, 15.36% land mammals, and 6.59% vegetation. Also according to ADF&G there were 1,138 household permits for subsistence salmon issued to residents of Kodiak in the year 1999 for an estimated harvest of 24,956 total salmon. Residents of Kodiak have the right to apply for halibut subsistence certificates.

Additional Information

There are many fishing related events, ceremonies, and festivals held in the city of Kodiak such as the Blessing of the Fleet, the Kodiak Crab Festival, the Kodiak Salmon Celebration, and a Fisherman's Memorial Service for Those Lost At Sea.

Larsen Bay (return to communities)

People and Place

Location

Larsen Bay is located on the northwest coast of Kodiak Island on Larsen Bay. The community is 60 miles southwest of the City of Kodiak and 283 miles southwest of Anchorage. It makes up 5.4 square miles of land and 2.2 square miles of water and is in the Kodiak Recording District.

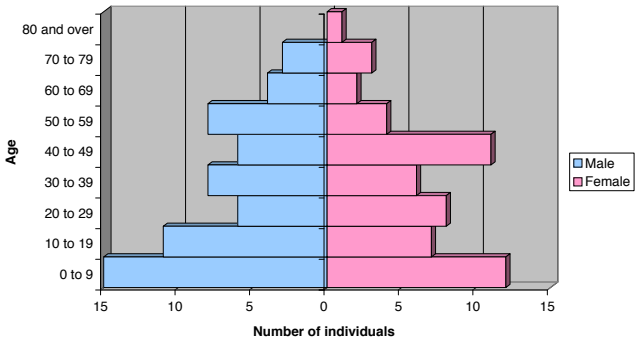
Demographic Profile

Larsen Bay had a total population of 115 as recorded by the 2000 U.S. Census, with 53% of the inhabitants were male and 47% were female. According to the Census, in 1880 there were no recorded inhabitants of Larsen Bay, and in 1890 there were 20 recorded inhabitants. The population was recorded as zero again for the years 1900 through 1930, but then climbed until 1980 to 168 inhabitants, again declining a bit to the reported population in 2000. In 2000, 20.9% of the population identified as White, 78.3% American Indian and Alaska Native, and 0.9% as two or more races. Ninety-one percent of the population were all or part American Indian and Alaska Native. No one in the community identified as Hispanic. The median age of those in the community was 29.3 years versus the national average of 35.3 years. About 61.7% of the population was 18 years of age and over. There were 70 total housing units in Larsen Bay in 2000, with 30 units vacant, and 28 of those vacant due to seasonal use. No one in the population lived in group quarters when the 2000 Census was conducted. Nearly 80.7% of the population age 25 years and older had graduated from high school and gone on to further schooling, and 15.8% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher.

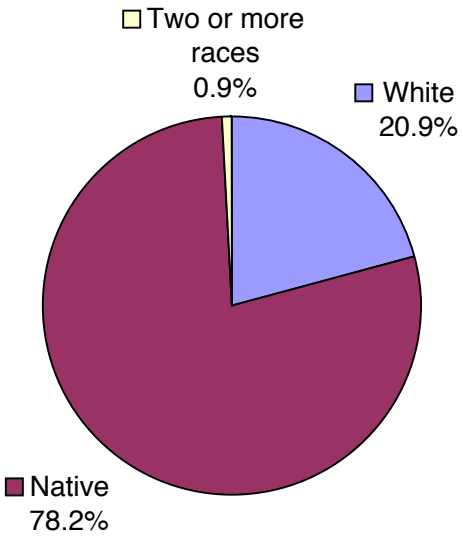
History

The history of Larsen Bay is intimately tied into the history of the city of Kodiak mentioned in the previous section. The area of Larsen Bay is believed to have been inhabited for at least 2,000 years. Hundreds of artifacts have been uncovered in the community, which attest to the fact that an Aleut or more recently termed Alutiiq community lived in the area for about 2,000 years prior to the first contact with Russian explorers in the mid-1700s when fur traders began to frequent the islands. A tannery was present at Uyak Bay during the early 1800s. Peter Larsen was an Unga

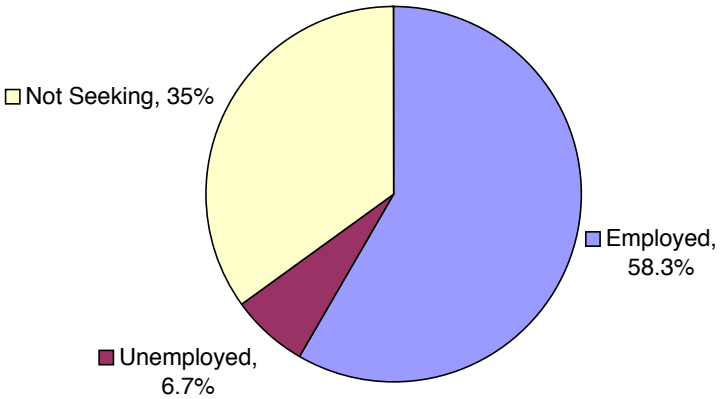
2000 Population Structure
Larsen Bay
Data source: US Census



2000 Racial Structure
Larsen Bay
Data source: US Census



2000 Employment Structure
Larsen Bay
Data source: US Census



Island furrier, hunter, and guide during the late 1800s, and at the time of the 1890 Census the Native village of Uyak, which was situated on the west shore of the bay, was renamed Larsen Bay after the furrier (North Pacific Fishery Management Council 1994). The community was recorded as having 20 occupants at that time. A cannery was built in the village in 1911 by the Alaska Packers Association. Larsen Bay was incorporated in the year 1974. The city gained national attention in 1991 because the Smithsonian Institution repatriated the remains of 756 Alutiiq people who had been taken 50 years earlier according to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). The remains were given a Russian Orthodox reburial and interned in a mass grave. This was the largest repatriation of Native remains carried out by the Smithsonian.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Larsen Bay is largely based on commercial, subsistence, and sport fishing. In 2000 there were a total of 22 commercial fishing permits issued to residents of Larsen Bay, and 29 licensed crew members. There are a small number of year-round employment positions in the community. Five lodges are present in the city, providing tour-guide services, and a large number of residents are dependent on subsistence hunting. There was numerous sport fishing guide businesses present in the city. At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, 58.3% of the population age 16 and over were employed, 6.7% were unemployed, and 35.0% were not in the labor force. Of those working; 37.1% were private wage and salary workers, 60.0% were classified as government workers, and 2.9% were self-employed. The per capita income was $16,227 with the median household income was $40,833. About 20.5% of the population lived below the poverty level.

Governance

Larsen Bay is a second-class city, incorporated in 1974, and has a manager form of government with a mayor, a seven person city council, advisory school board, and four municipal employees (airport/utilities manager, city clerk/water & sewer, librarian, and public safety person). The city is part of the Kodiak Island Borough and has a 3% sales tax, a 9.25 mills (0.925%) property tax imposed by the Borough, a 5% accommodations tax from the Borough, and a 0.925% severance tax also imposed by the Borough. The regional Native corporation for the area is Koniag, Inc., and the non-profit half of the corporation is the Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA). The Native village corporation for the community is Anton Larsen, Inc. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized traditional council for the community is the Native Village of Larsen Bay, which is also a tribal government contractor. The closest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G), and Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) offices are all located within the city of Kodiak.

Facilities

The community is accessible by both the air and water. There are both regularly scheduled and charter flights available from Kodiak. Regular flights are available for around $263 from Anchorage to Kodiak, according to Expedia and Travelocity websites (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible). Then there is the additional cost to fly into Larsen Bay from Kodiak by charter plane. A 2,700 foot gravel airstrip, owned by the State, is present in the community as well as a seaplane base. A breakwater and boat harbor was recently finished in 2002 and docking facilities are available in Larsen Bay. Every six weeks a cargo barge arrives from Seattle. There are several hotels that provide accommodations; the Larsen Bay Lodge, Wick's Adventure Lodge, Panamaroff Lodge, Uyak Bay Lodge, and the Kodiak Lodge. There is one school in the community, the Larsen Bay School, a K-12th grade with 25 students and 2 teachers in 2000. Health care is available at the Larsen Bay Health Clinic which is run by the Village Council, although the clinic is in need of major renovations. Police services are provided by a Village Public Safety Official (VPSO). Electricity is available from the Larsen Bay Utility Company and is owned and operated by the city with the main power source of hydroelectric with a diesel backup. The city also operates the sewage system, the refuse collection and landfill, and the water service. All 40 homes in the community are connected to the piped water system.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

There were 22 commercial fishing permits issued to residents of Larsen Bay in 2000 and there were 29 licensed crew members from the community. Four vessel owners participated in the federal commercial fisheries and three participated in the commercial salmon fishery. Out of the 22 permits issued, 20 permits were fished in 2000. Eight permits were issued for other groundfish: three for miscellaneous salt water finfish using a longline on a vessel under 60 feet statewide (three fished), one for miscellaneous slat water finfish using pot gear on a vessel under 60 feet statewide (one fished), and four were issued for miscellaneous salt water finfish using a mechanical jig statewide (three fished). One permit was issued for octopi/squid using pot gear on a vessel under 60 feet statewide (one fished). Thirteen permits were issued for salmon (12 fished): 7 were issued for salmon with a set gillnet in Kodiak (7 fished), 2 for salmon using a beach seine in Kodiak (none fished), and 4 were issued to residents of the community and recorded at the end of the year using a purse seine in Kodiak (5 fished).

No vessels delivered landings to Larsen Bay in 2000 because there were no processors in operation in the community. Local landings were likely delivered to the city of Kodiak or to the processor at Alitak Bay. The Kodiak Salmon Packers cannery is located in the community of Larsen Bay and has been in operation again since 2000, but was not open during that particular year due to low salmon prices. The Kodiak Island Borough, of which Larsen Bay is a part, was recently allotted $362,963 in federal salmon disaster funds which will most likely be used for borough projects and to partially replace revenues which would have been gathered from the fish tax. The Borough was also granted $69,687 by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference as part of the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Program "in recognition of the negative economic impacts of federal measures to protect the Steller sea lion" with money which had been allocated by the U.S. government (Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference 2003).

Sport Fishing

The Kodiak Island Official Visitors Guide reported that Larsen Bay "lodges lure anglers from around the world for some of the best fishing in the archipelago." There were a large number of sport fishing businesses in Larsen Bay with 10 listings for saltwater guide businesses, 10 for freshwater, 3 drop-off services listings, and 6 full service guiding business listings for 2002. There were 75 sport fishing licenses sold in Larsen Bay to Alaska residents in 2000, and a total of 497 licenses were sold to non-residents.

Subsistence Fishing

According to the ADF&G's Division of Subsistence in Larsen Bay for 1997 (the most representative subsistence year): 96.2% of all households used all subsistence resources, 96.2% used salmon, 76.9% used non-salmon fish (herring, herring roe, smelt, bass, cod, eel, flounder, greenling, halibut, perch, rockfish, sablefish, sculpin, shark, skates, sole, wolffish, char, grayling, pike, sturgeon, trout, and whitefish), 23.1% used marine mammals, and 61.5% of all households used marine invertebrates. The per capita harvest of all subsistence resources in Larsen Bay in 1997 was 370.48 lbs. The breakdown of that harvest was: 57.62% salmon, 21.36% non-salmon fish, 0.57% marine mammals, 3.44% marine invertebrates, 0.38% birds and eggs, 14.97% land mammals, and 1.64% vegetation. According to the ADF&G there were a total of 10 household subsistence salmon permits issued to residents of Larsen Bay in 1999 for an estimated total of 556 salmon harvested. Residents of Larsen Bay have the right to apply for halibut subsistence certificates.

Old Harbor (return to communities)

People and Place

Location

Old Harbor is situated off of the Gulf of Alaska on the southeast coast of Kodiak Island. The community is located 70 miles southwest of the City of Kodiak and 322 miles southwest of Anchorage. It makes up 21.0 square miles of land and 6.2 square miles of water, and is in the Kodiak Recording District.

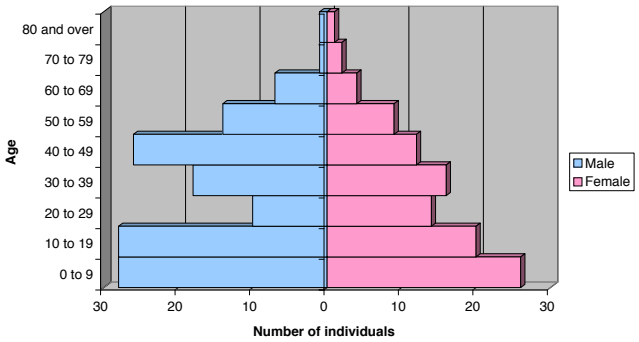
Demographic Profile

In 2000, Old Harbor had a total population of 237 as recorded by the 2000 U.S. Census. About 56.1% were male and 43.9% were female. It appears that in recent times the population of Old Harbor has been decreasing from 340 inhabitants in 1980 to 229 in 2002, as established by a State Demographer. Residents of a summer fish camp, Kaguyak, also live in the city of Old Harbor. In 2000, 13.1% of the population identified as White, 73.0% American Indian and Alaska Native, and 13.9% as two or more races. No one in the community identified as Hispanic. The median age of the residents of Old Harbor was 27.1 years, considerably younger than the national average of 35.3 years. There were a total of 111 housing units in the community, with 32 of vacant in 2000, and 13 vacant due to seasonal use. No one in the community lived in group quarters at the time of the census. Approximately 85.1% of the population age 25 and over had graduated from school and gone on to further schooling, 5.3% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher, and 1.8% had a graduate or professional degree in 2000.

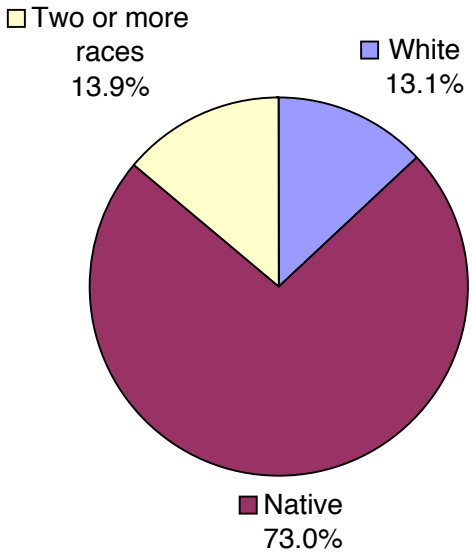
History

Old Harbor's history is closely tied to that of the city of Kodiak. The Old Harbor area is believed to have been inhabited for about 2,000 years by Alutiiq peoples. In 1784 a Russian named Gregorii Shelikof visited the area in his flagship the 'Three Saints' and his men founded a settlement at what was termed Three Saints Bay, near the site of what is today Old Harbor. At this settlement the Native population was forced to hunt sea otters. The men were "organized into work groups and forced to hunt at sea in large fleets of bidarkas, while women, old men, and children were made to work on shore" (Mason 1995). Prior to this, hundreds of Alutiiq Natives died jumping off a cliff on Refuge Rock near Sitkalidak Island attempting to escape from Shelikof's

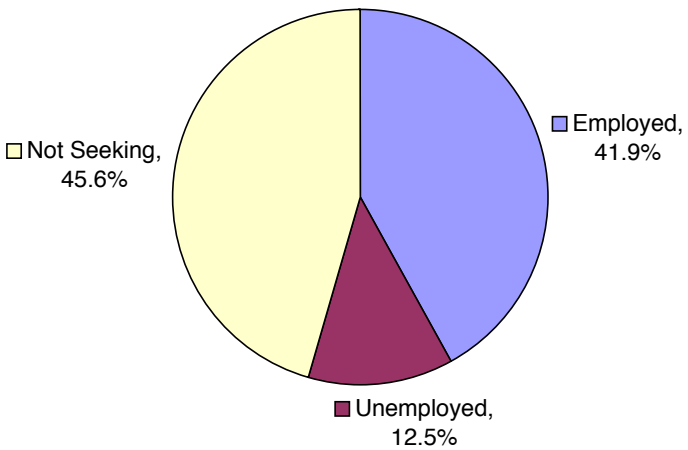
2000 Population Structure
Old Harbor
Data source: US Census



2000 Racial Structure
Old Harbor
Data source: US Census



2000 Employment Structure
Old Harbor
Data source: US Census



party (Mason 1995). The settlement of Three Saints Bay became the first Russian colony in Alaska, but in 1788 the settlement was destroyed by a tsunami. The community experienced two more earthquakes and relocated to the northeast coast of the island in 1793 to 'Saint Paul's' which is today the city of Kodiak. In 1884 a community was reestablished again at Three Saints Harbor. The town was documented as 'Staruigayan' or 'Old Harbor' when translated from Russian. In 1932 the Old Harbor post office opened. The Good Friday earthquake in 1964 and the tsunami caused by it practically destroyed the whole community of Old Harbor with only the church and two homes remaining in the aftermath. The community was rebuilt and in 1966 the city became incorporated.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

Commercial and subsistence fishing, as well as subsistence hunting are all very important to the community of Old Harbor. The city also has numerous sport fishing guide businesses. In 2000, 72 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of Old Harbor and 63 residents were licensed crew members. Most community residents are dependent to an extent on subsistence activities including the harvesting of animals such as bear, rabbit, salmon, halibut, seal, and deer. In 2000, of those age 16 and over, approximately 41.9% were employed, 12.5% were unemployed, and 45.6% were not in the labor force. Of those employed, about 43.9% were employed by the government and 14.0% were self-employed. About 42.1% of those working were employed in management, professional, and related occupations. The per capita income in the community in 2000 was $14,265 with the median household income of $32,500. About 29.5% of the population lived below the poverty level.

Governance

Old Harbor is a second-class city that was incorporated in 1966. The city has a manager form of government which includes a mayor, a seven person city council, a six person advisory school board, and six municipal employees, including a health officer and a Village Public Safety Officer. The city is part of the Kodiak Island Borough and the City has a 3% sales tax. The Borough imposes 9.25 mills (0.925%) property tax as well as a 5% accommodations tax and a 0.925% severance tax. The regional Native corporation for the area is Koniag, Inc., and the non-profit half of the corporation is the Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA). The Native village corporation is the Old Harbor Native Corporation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized traditional council is the Village of Old Harbor. The closest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G), and Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) offices are all located within the city of Kodiak.

Facilities

The community of Old Harbor is reachable by both air and water. Flight are available from Kodiak to the community on both regularly scheduled and charter flights. Old Harbor has a 2,750 foot state-owned gravel runway as well as a seaplane base. Regular flights are available for around $263 from Anchorage to Kodiak, according to Expedia and Travelocity websites (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible). Then there is the additional cost to fly into Old Harbor from Kodiak by charter plane. A harbor is present with docking facilities for 55 boats. Local barge services and barge service from Seattle are available. Accommodations are available at the Bay View Bed and Breakfast, the Ocean View Lodge, and the Kodiak Sportsman Lodge. There is one school in the community, Old Harbor School, a K-12th grade, with 62 students and 7 teachers in 2000. Health care is available at the Old Harbor Health Clinic and is operated by KANA, but owned by the city. Police services are available by the State VPSO. The electric utility is AVEC and is operated by REA Co-op and the city with the main power source being diesel, although as of 2000, 100% of the households heated with kerosene. There is no refuse collection available, and the city operates the landfill and the water and sewer systems.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 there were 72 commercial fishing permits issued to residents of Old Harbor, and 63 licensed crew members living in the community. There were 12 vessel owners who were residents of the community and who participated in the commercial fishing of federal species; 11 vessel owners participated in the

commercial salmon fishery. Of the 72 permits issued to residents in 2000, 39 were fished.

Four permits were issued for halibut to residents of Old Harbor (4 fished): one permit was issued for halibut using a longline vessel under 60 feet statewide and three were issued for using a longline vessel over 60 feet statewide. A total of 16 permits were issued for herring (5 fished). Six permits were issued for herring roe using a purse seine in Kodiak (four fished), one for herring roe using a purse seine in the Alaska Peninsula (none fished), three for herring roe using a purse seine in Bristol Bay (none fished), four for herring roe using a gillnet in Kodiak (none fished), one for herring food/bait using a purse seine in Kodiak (none fished), and one for herring food/bait using a purse seine in the Alaska Peninsula (one fished). There were 21 permits issued in 2000 for other groundfish (12 fished): 7 were issued for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using pot gear in a vessel under 60 feet statewide (6 fished), 12 for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using a mechanical jig statewide (6fished), and one was issued for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using pot gear on a vessel 60 feet or over statewide (none fished). Six permits were issued for other shellfish (four fished): five were for octopi/squid using pot gear in a vessel under 60 feet statewide (four fished), and one was for shrimp using pot gear in a vessel under 60 feet westward (none fished). Twenty-five were issued for the commercial fishing of salmon to the residents of Old Harbor (14 fished): 22 were issued for salmon using a purse seine in Kodiak (10 fished), one for salmon using a beach seine in Kodiak (none fished), and two which were issued to residents of the community and recorded at the end of the year using a set gillnet in Kodiak (four fished).

No vessels delivered landings to the community in 2000 because there was no processor in the community. Landings were most likely delivered to the community of Kodiak or to the processor at Alitak Bay. Old Harbor was recently allotted $1,604 in federal salmon disaster funds and the Kodiak Island Borough was allotted $362,963 which will most likely be used for borough projects. The Borough was also granted $69,687 by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference as part of the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation program “in recognition of the negative economic impacts of federal measures to protect the Steller sea lion” with money which had been allocated by the U.S. government (Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference 2003).

Sport Fishing

There were quite a few sport fishing businesses present in the community of Old Harbor with listings in 2002 - seven saltwater guide businesses and five freshwater guide businesses. There were 17 sport fishing licenses sold in Old Harbor in 2000 to Alaska residents, and a total of 101 licenses sold to non-residents.

Subsistence Fishing

According to the ADF&G’s Division of Subsistence, in the community of Old Harbor in 1997 (the most representative subsistence year), 100% of all households in the community used all subsistence resources: 97.7% used salmon, 97.7% used non-salmon fish (herring, herring roe, smelt, bass, cod, eel, flounder, greenling, halibut, perch, rockfish, sablefish, sculpin, shark, skates, sole, wolffish, char, grayling, pike, sturgeon, trout, and whitefish), 69.8% used marine mammals, and 93.0% of households used marine invertebrates. The per capita harvest of all subsistence resources in Old Harbor in 1997 was 300.36 lbs. The breakdown of that harvest was: 36.79% salmon, 17.17% non-salmon fish, 14.36% marine mammals, 6.39% marine invertebrates, 3.69% birds and eggs, 19.61% land mammals, and 1.99% vegetation. According to the ADF&G there were 18 household salmon subsistence permits issued to residents of Old Harbor in 1999 for an estimated total of 1,119 salmon harvested during the year. Residents of Old Harbor have the right to apply for subsistence halibut certificates.

Ouzinkie (return to communities)

People and Place

Location

Ouzinkie is located on Spruce Island and is adjacent to Kodiak Island. The community is northwest of the City of Kodiak and is 247 air miles southwest of Anchorage. It makes up 6.0 square miles of land and 1.7 square miles of water. Ouzinkie is located in the Kodiak Recording District.

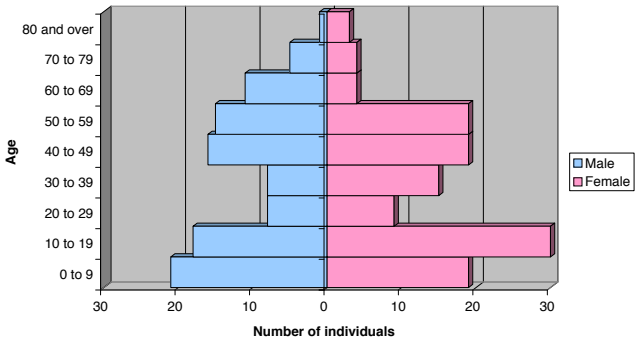
Demographic Profile

In 2000, Ouzinkie had a total population of 225, with 45.8% male and 54.2% female. Since the 1880 U.S. Census, the population has fluctuated from no inhabitants at the city's lowest point (1900 and 1910) to 253 inhabitants at the highest point (in 1940). Since 1930 the population has remained relatively stable, close to 200 inhabitants. In 2000, 11.1% of Ouzinkie's population was White, 80.9% were American Indian or Alaska Native, and 8.0% were of two or more races. A total of 87.6% of the residents identified as being American Indian and Alaska Native either alone or in combination with one or more other races. About 4.4% of the population was Hispanic. The median age in the community was 32.8 years old compared to the national average of 35.3 years. There were 86 housing units, and of those 12 were vacant, with 6 vacant due to seasonal use. No one in the community lived in group quarters. About 76.6% of the residents age 25 and over had graduated from high school or went on to further schooling, 11.3% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher, and 1.6% had a graduate or professional degree.

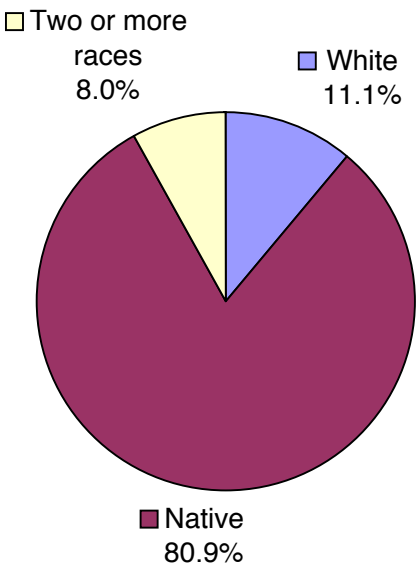
History

The history of Ouzinkie is intimately tied to the history of the city of Kodiak mentioned in the previous section. The community of Ouzinkie was established in the early 1800's as a retirement community for the Russian American Company. Ouzinkie takes its name from the Russian word "uzen'kii," meaning "rather narrow." Narrow Strait, on which Ouzinkie is located, is the present name of the passage between Spruce and Kodiak Islands. The Royal Packing Company built a cannery in Ouzinkie in the year 1889 and soon after the American Packing Company built a cannery there as well. A Russian Orthodox Church was constructed in the community in 1890. In 1898 the Church of the

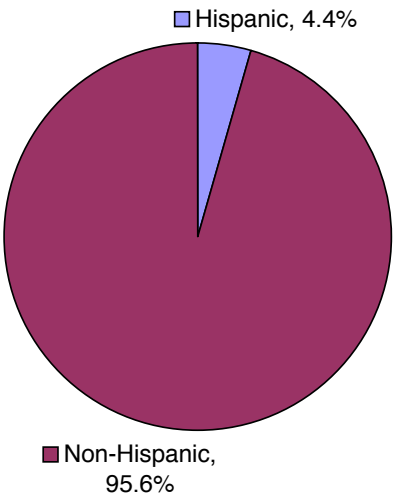
2000 Population Structure
Ouzinkie
Data source: US Census



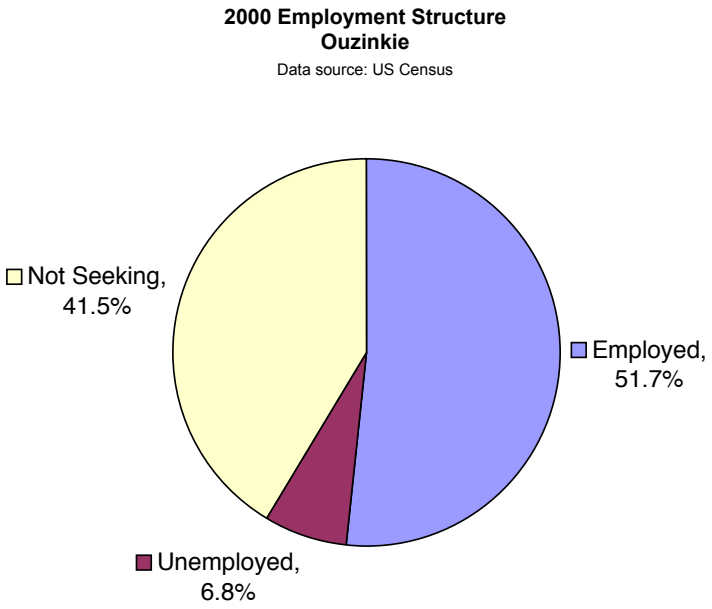
2000 Racial Structure
Ouzinkie
Data source: US Census



2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Ouzinkie
Data source: US Census



Nativity was built. In the early 1900's cattle ranching was popular in Ouzinkie and in 1927 a post office was founded. The Good Friday earthquake in 1964 and the tsunamis caused by the earthquake seriously damaged the village and destroyed the Ouzinkie Packing Company cannery. After the earthquake, the remains were purchased by Columbia Ward who rebuilt the store and dock, but did not rebuild the cannery. The city was incorporated in 1967. The Ouzinkie Seafoods cannery was built in the late 60's and was sold to Glacier Bay in 1976, but burned down quickly after the sale. There have been no canneries in operation in the community since 1976.



Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of the community of Ouzinkie is based for the most part on commercial salmon fishing. In 2000 a total of 48 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents, and of those many were issued for salmon. Permits were also issued for halibut, herring, other groundfish, and sablefish. There were 35 residents who were licensed crew members in Ouzinkie in 2000. Subsistence activities are also very important to residents of the community with almost all depending on subsistence to some extent. In 2000, about 51.7% of the population of Ouzinkie was employed, 6.8% were unemployed, and 41.5% were not in the labor force. Of those employed 60.5% reported as being government workers. The per capita income in the community was $19,324 and the median household income having was $52,500. About 6.0% of the population lived below the poverty level at the time of the 2000 Census.

Governance

Ouzinkie is a second-class city incorporated in 1967. The city has a mayor form of government which includes the mayor, a seven person city council, a five person advisory school board, and a variety of municipal employees. Ouzinkie is included in the Kodiak Island Borough and has a 3% sales tax, 9.25 mills (0.925%) property tax, 5% accommodations tax, and a 0.925% severance tax. The regional Native corporation for the area is Koniag, Inc., and the non-profit half of the corporation is the Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA). The Native village corporation is the Ouzinkie Corporation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized traditional council for the area is the Ouzinkie Tribal Council. The Native Village of Ouzinkie and the Ouzinkie Tribal Council recently received a grant in the amount of $186,577 from the Rasmuson Foundation in 2002 for the "construction of [a] multi-purpose cultural center" (Rasmuson Foundation 2003). The closest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G), and Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) offices are all located within the city of Kodiak.

Facilities

Ouzinkie is reachable by both air and water. The 2,085 foot gravel airstrip is owned by the State, and there is a floatplane landing area present at the Ouzinkie Harbor. Regular flights are available for around $263 from Anchorage to Kodiak, according to Expedia and Travelocity websites (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible). Then there is the additional cost to fly into Ouzinkie from Kodiak by charter plane. Charter plane services are available from Island Air. A breakwater, small boat harbor, and dock are also present in the community. The Corps of Engineers are currently designing a new small boat harbor and breakwater. Cargo delivery is available by barge from both Seattle and Kodiak. Accommodations are available at City apartment, the Native Village Corporation apartment, and the B&B. One school is present in the community, Ouzinkie School, which

teaches 2-12th grade and had 50 students 6 teachers in 2000. The school has a gym which is available for community use. Health care is available at the Ouzinkie Health Clinic, operated by KANA, and owned by the City, although a new clinic is under construction. There are no police present in the community and fire/rescue is provided by the City Volunteer Fire Department and the U.S. Coast Guard. The electric utility for the area is the City of Ouzinkie with the main power source being hydro with a diesel backup, although in 2000 about 94.4% of the households in the village heated with kerosene. The city also operates the water system, sewer system, refuse collection, and landfill operation.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 there were a total of 48 commercial fishing permits issued to residents of Ouzinkie, and there were 35 licensed crew members in the community. Fourteen vessel owners participated in the commercial fishing of federal species, and 6 vessel owners participated in salmon commercial fishing. Of the 48 permits issued in 2000, 27 were fished that year.

There were 14 permits issued for halibut: 12 for halibut with a longline vessel under 60 feet statewide (11 fished), and 2 for halibut using a longline vessel over 60 feet statewide (2 fished). Two permits were issued for herring roe using gillnets in Kodiak (none fished). Eighteen permits were issued for other groundfish (6 fished): 4 permits for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using a hand troll statewide (none fished), 5 permits for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using a longline vessel under 60 feet statewide, one for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using pot gear in a vessel under 60 feet statewide (none fished), 7 for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using mechanical jig statewide (2 fished), and one for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using a longline vessel over 60 feet statewide (one fished). One permit was issued for sablefish using a longline vessel over 60 feet statewide, and it was fished that year. There were 13 permits issued for salmon, (7 fished): 10 were issued for salmon using a purse seine in Kodiak (4 fished), and 3 were issued for salmon using a set gillnet in Kodiak (3 fished).

No vessels delivered to landings to Ouzinkie in 2000 as there was not a processor in the community. Landings were most likely delivered to the processors at nearby Kodiak. The community of Ouzinkie was recently allotted $500 in federal salmon disaster funds and the Kodiak Island Borough was allotted $362,963 as well which will most likely be used for Borough projects and receded into the general fund. The Borough was also granted $69,687 by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference as part of the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Program “in recognition of the negative economic impacts of federal measures to protect the Steller sea lion” with money which had been allocated by the U.S. government (Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference 2003).

Sport Fishing

There are two sport fishing businesses in Ouzinkie listed by the ADF&G as both saltwater and freshwater guide businesses. There were a few other companies licensed in 2000 as charter businesses. A total of 46 sport fishing licenses were sold in Ouzinkie to Alaska residents, and a total of 55 licenses were sold to non-residents.

Subsistence Fishing

According to the ADF&G’s Division of Subsistence, in the community of Ouzinkie in 1997 (the most representative subsistence year), 100% of all households in the community used all subsistence resources: 95.7% used salmon, 97.9% used non-salmon fish (herring, herring roe, smelt, bass, cod, eel, flounder, greenling, halibut, perch, rockfish, sablefish, sculpin, shark, wolffish, char, grayling, pike, sturgeon, trout, and whitefish), 59.6% used marine mammals, and 61.7% used marine invertebrates. The per capita harvest for all subsistence resources was 263.95 lbs in Ouzinkie in 1997. The breakdown of that harvest was: 47.94% salmon, 24.78% non-salmon fish, 5.18% marine mammals, 2.82% marine invertebrates, 4.70% birds and eggs, 10.85% land mammals, and 3.73% vegetation. According to the ADF&G there were 32 household subsistence salmon permits which were issued to residents of Ouzinkie in 1999. Residents are eligible to apply for halibut subsistence certificates.

Port Lions (return to communities)

People and Place

Location

Port Lions is on the north coast of Kodiak Island in Settler Cove. The community is 247 air miles southwest of Anchorage and is located in the Kodiak Recording District. It is made up of 6.3 square miles of land and 3.7 square miles of water.

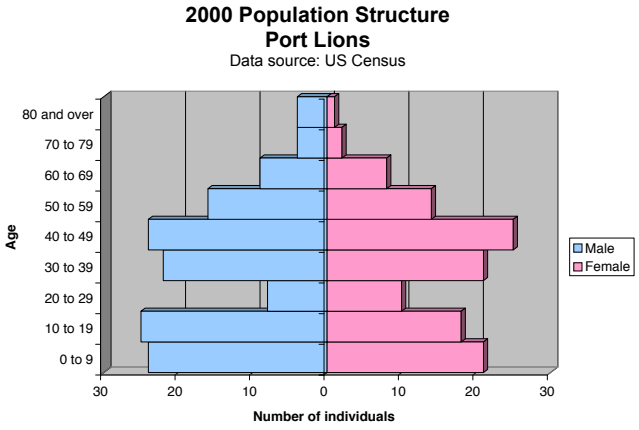
Demographic Profile

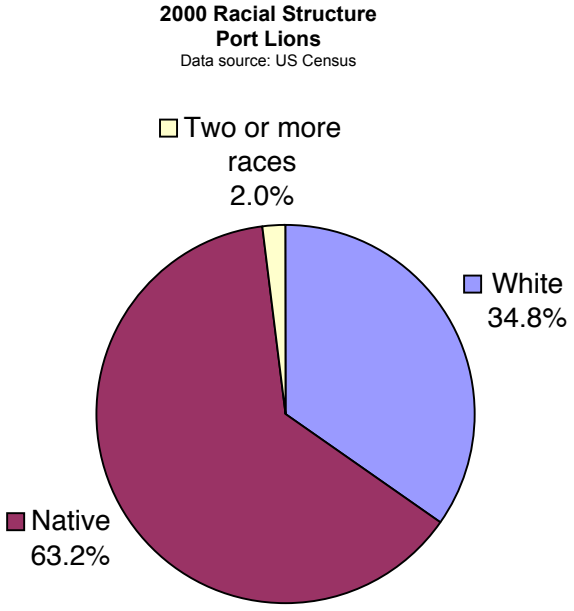
There were 256 inhabitants of Port Lions in 2000, with 53.1% of the population male and 46.9% female. The population has remained relatively stable since the 1970 U.S. Census. In 2000, 34.8% of the population was White, 63.3% were American Indian and Alaska Native, and 2.0% were of two or more races. A total of 63.7% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian.

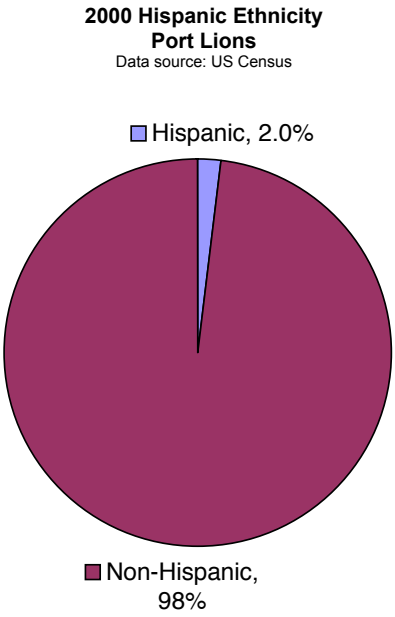
About 2.0% were Hispanic. The median age for the community was 35.6 years old, similar to the national age median of 35.3 years. About 33.2% of the population was under the age of 18 years old. There were a total of 106 housing units in Port Lions, and of those 17 were vacant and 12 of those which were vacant were vacant due to seasonal use. No one in the community lived in group quarters. Approximately 83.3% of the population age 25 years and over had graduated from high school and gone on to further schooling, 19.5% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher, and 2.3% had a graduate or professional degree.

History

The history of Port Lions is intimately tied to the history of the city of Kodiak. The town of Port Lions was established in December, 1964 for the inhabitants of the village of Afognak after the Good Friday earthquake's tsunami destroyed their village. The new village was named in honor of the Lions Club because of the service group's support and help in rebuilding and relocating the village. Many members of the community still visit the old village of Afognak, and archeological excavation of the area commenced in 1999. In 1966, the city of Port Lions was incorporated. The Wakefield Cannery on Peregrebni Point existed in the community for many years, but burned down in 1975. The village corporation purchased the Smokwa, a 149 foot floating processor quickly after, which







processed crab between 1975 and 1980. There was also a small sawmill that operated until 1976 and was situated south of the community.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

Port Lions' economy is mainly based on commercial fishing, fish processing, and tourism. A total of 49 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of Port Lions in 2000, and the community had 41 licensed crew members who were residents. Subsistence is very important to the community as well with all of the residents using subsistence resources. Of the population age 16 and over in 2000, 47.6% were employed, 2.1% were unemployed, and 50.3% were not in the labor force at the time of the Census. Of those which were reported as working, 62.6% were classified as government workers. A total of 29.7% of those working were categorized as being in the industries of education, health, and social services. The per capita income in the community in 2000 was $17,492 with the median household income of $39,107. A total of 12.1% of the population lived below the poverty level.

Governance

Port Lions is a second-class city incorporated in 1966, and has a mayor form of government which includes the mayor, a seven person city council, a three person advisory school board, and various municipal employees including a Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO). There is no Sales Tax in the community, but there are taxes imposed by the Borough including 9.25 mills (0.925%) property tax, 5% accommodations tax, and 0.925% severance tax. The community is part of the Kodiak Island Borough. The regional Native corporation for the area is Koniag, Inc., and the non-profit half of the corporation is the Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA). The Native village corporation is the Afognak Native Corporation, the merged corporation of both Afognak and Port Lions. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recognized traditional council for the area is the Port Lions Traditional Tribal Council which is also merged from the Port Lions and Afognak councils. The closest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G), and Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) offices are all located within the city of Kodiak.

Facilities

The community of Port Lions is reachable by both the air and water. Regular and charter flights are available for around $263 from Anchorage to Kodiak, according to Expedia and Travelocity websites (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible). Then there is the additional cost to fly into the Port Lions from Kodiak. There is a state-owned 2,200 foot gravel airstrip, and seaplanes can use the City dock. Between the months of May and October, the State Ferry runs bi-monthly from Kodiak. The boat harbor and breakwater hold a total of 82 boat slips. Barge service is offered from Seattle. There is one K-12 school is in the community, the Port Lions School, which had a total of 48 students and six teachers in 2000. Accommodations are available at the Lions Den Lodge and the Port Lions Lodge & Charters. Health care is available at the Port Lions Health Clinic which is operated by KANA and owned by the City. Police services are provided by a State VPSO. The electric utility is the Kodiak Electric Association which is operated by REA Co-op with the main power source being diesel, although 91.4% of households in 2000 heated using kerosene. The water, sewer, and refuse systems are all operated by the City.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

There were a total of 49 commercial fishing permits issued to residents of Port Lions in 2000, and there were 41 licensed crew members from the community. There were five owners of vessels participating in federal fisheries and eight involved in the commercial fishing of salmon. Of the total 49 permits issued in 2000, only 27 were fished.

Two permits were issued to Port Lions residents for crab; one for Dungeness crab on a pot gear vessel under 60 feet westward (not fished), and one for king crab on a pot gear vessel over 60 feet in Bristol Bay (fished). There were 11 permits issued for halibut: seven for halibut in a longline vessel under 60 feet statewide (4 fished), one for halibut using a mechanical jig statewide (one fished), and 3 for halibut in a longline vessel over 60 feet statewide. Seven permits were issued for herring in 2000, (one fished): one was issued for herring roe using a purse

seine in Cook Inlet (none fished), one for herring roe using a purse seine in Kodiak (none fished), two for herring roe using a purse seine in Bristol Bay (one fished), and three for herring roe using a gillnet in Kodiak (none fished). There were a total of 13 permits issued for other groundfish (6 fished): one was issued for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using a hand troll statewide (none fished), 2 for miscellaneous saltwater finfish in a longline vessel under 60 feet statewide (one fished), 3 for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using pot gear in a vessel under 60 feet statewide (one fished), 6 for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using a mechanical jig statewide (3 fished), and one for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using pot gear in a vessel 60 feet or over statewide (one fished). One permit was issued to a community member for sablefish using a longline vessel under 60 feet statewide and the permit was fished. There were 15 commercial fishing permits issued for salmon (10 fished): 12 permits were issued for salmon using a purse seine in Kodiak (8 fished), one for salmon using a beach seine in Kodiak (none fished), one for salmon using a set gillnet in Kodiak (one fished), and one for salmon using a set gillnet in Bristol Bay (one fished).

There were no vessels delivering landings to Port Lions because as there is no processor located in the community. Landings are likely being delivered to nearby Kodiak. The community was recently allotted $1,749 in federal salmon disaster funds and the Kodiak Island Borough was allotted $362,963. The Borough was also granted $69,687 by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference as part of the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Program “in recognition of the negative economic impacts of federal measures to protect the Steller sea lion” with money which had been allocated by the U.S. government (Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference 2003).

Sport Fishing

There are quite a few sport fishing businesses in the community of Port Lions. There were 11 listings for saltwater guide businesses, eight for freshwater guide businesses, four for drop-off services, and five for full service guides in 2002. The Port Lions Lodge offers accommodations and sport fishing services such as float trips. There were a total of 18 sport fishing licenses sold in Port Lions to Alaskan residents in 2000, and 148 sold to non-residents.

Subsistence Fishing

According to the ADF&G’s Division of Subsistence in 1993, 100% of households used all subsistence resources:100% used salmon, 95.6% used non-salmon fish (herring, herring roe, smelt, cod, flounder, greenling, halibut, perch, rockfish, sablefish, sculpin, shark, skates, sole, wolffish, char, grayling, pike, trout, and whitefish), 17.8% used marine mammals, and 53.3% used marine invertebrates. The per capita harvest of all subsistence resources in Port Lions was 331.46 lbs in 1993. The breakdown of that harvest was: 47.57% salmon, 19.22% non-salmon fish, 1.34% marine mammals, 9.12% marine invertebrates, 1.17% birds and eggs, 16.94% land mammals, and 4.65% vegetation. Also according to ADF&G there were 46 household subsistence salmon permits which were issued to residents of the community in 1999. Residents are also eligible to apply for halibut subsistence certificates.

4.2.3 Kenai Peninsula

Communities

Anchor Point	Kenai	Seldovia
Clam Gulch	Nikiski	Seward
Halibut Cove	Nikolaevsk	Soldotna
Homer	Ninilchik	Sterling
Kasilof	Port Graham	

Geographic Location

The Kenai Peninsula is located immediately south of Anchorage, at approximately 60.55 °North Lat. and 151.26667 °West Long. 2000 U.S. Census recording districts located on the Peninsula include the Kenai, Seward, Homer, and Seldovia districts. The total land area of the Kenai Peninsula Borough, which includes the Peninsula and some land area across Cook Inlet, is 16,013.3 square miles of land and 8,741.3 square miles of water. The borough includes portions of the Chugach National Forest, the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, the Kenai Fjords National Park, and portions of the Lake Clark and Katmai National Parks.

Weather

The Kenai Peninsula is in the maritime climate zone of Alaska. The Alaska Mountain Range, coupled with plentiful moisture, produces relatively moderate temperatures and a fair amount of rainfall. Winters on the Kenai Peninsula are relatively mild compared to other regions of Alaska, with temperatures ranging from 4 º - 38 ºF. Summer temperatures range from 46º - 70 ºF. Rainfall totals vary widely on the Peninsula, from an annual average of 20 inches in Kenai to an average of 66 inches in Seward. Snowfall is common in the wintertime.

General Characterization

The Kenai Peninsula is one of the most affluent and developed regions in Alaska, owing to three major factors: commercial fishing, the oil industry, and recreation. Cook Inlet is home to some of the most productive halibut and salmon fisheries in the world. Sport fishing for halibut, salmon, trout, and other species, in saltwater and fresh water (including the famous Kenai River) attracts tourists and fishermen from around the world. Hundreds of thousands of sport fishing licenses are sold on the Peninsula annually. With the discovery of oil in Cook Inlet in the 1950s, job opportunities and increased incomes caused the population of the Kenai Peninsula to boom.

In terms of demography, the Peninsula is largely White (70-80%), with a relatively balanced male-to-female ratio, owing to the fact that most employment opportunities are not as variable by season as other parts of Alaska.

Institutional Framework

The Kenai Peninsula was incorporated as a second-class borough in 1964. Kenai Peninsula communities profiled in this document include: Anchor Point, Beluga, Clam Gulch, Homer, Kasilof, Kenai, Nikiski, Seldovia, Seward, and Soldotna. Schools are operated by the Kenai Peninsula School District, which had a total of 609 teachers and 9,697 students in 2000. Expenditures were $7,379 per student in that year.

The Kenai Native Association, an Alaska Native urban corporation, was formed in 1971 in accordance with the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). The association engages in activities that promote economic development, environmental conservation, and Native cultural heritage preservation on the Kenai Peninsula.

Commercial, Sport, and Subsistence Fisheries

The importance of fishing activities on the Kenai Peninsula to local and state economic development cannot be overstated. Commercial fleets operate out of the cities with larger ports, and commercial fish processing plants are located in many communities throughout the Peninsula. Fleet activity is concentrated in Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound halibut and salmon fisheries, but vessels operate in the crab, herring, and groundfish fisheries as well.

Sport fishing in both saltwater and freshwater environments is a huge driver of economic growth on

the Peninsula. Sport fishing license sales in the larger towns of Seward, Homer, and Kenai are typically greater than entire local populations, and fishermen from around the world come to enjoy the sport. Major sport species include salmon, halibut, trout, northern pike, and Dolly Varden.

Subsistence fishing and hunting are still relatively important to the local economy on the Kenai Peninsula; about 70-80% of households use subsistence resources. Beginning in 1980 with the adoption of Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), "non-rural" area residents were prohibited from harvesting subsistence resources on federal lands and waters. A 1989 court case, McDowell v. State of Alaska, challenged this designation and a decade-long legal battle ensued. By 1999 the federal government had taken over management of its own lands and waters. Peninsula residents designated "non-rural" were now ineligible to harvest on federal lands and waters. Any subsistence activities after this point on the Kenai Peninsula took place on state lands and waters only. Nevertheless, subsistence hunting for land mammals and fishing for salmon and other species continues.

Regional Challenges

Many issues affecting life on the peninsula are compounded by the region's rapid population. The larger towns on the peninsula have all seen a doubling or tripling of their populations in the last two decades. This has underscored the need to rapidly develop infrastructure and social services.

Dependence on salmon fishing, combined with falling salmon prices in recent years, has spelled economic hardship for some communities. Homer, Kenai, and Seward have all received substantial sums from federal salmon disaster funds; smaller communities on the peninsula have received lesser amounts.

The controversy over rights to subsistence harvesting, as described above, has also been a sore point for many communities.

Anchor Point (return to communities)

People and Place

Location

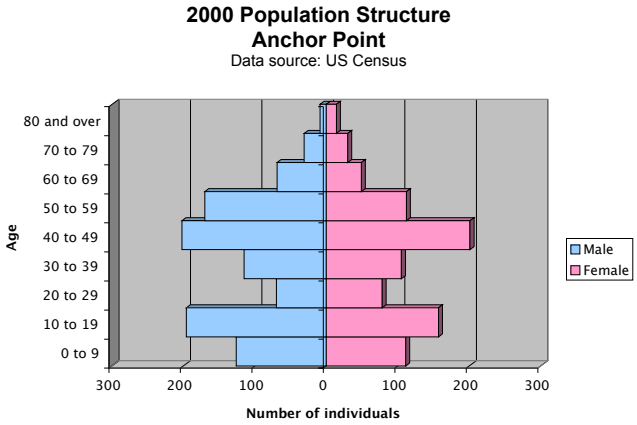
Anchor Point is an unincorporated city in the Kenai Peninsula Borough, approximately 14 miles northwest of Homer. The area encompasses 90.8 square miles of land and 0.1 square miles of water.

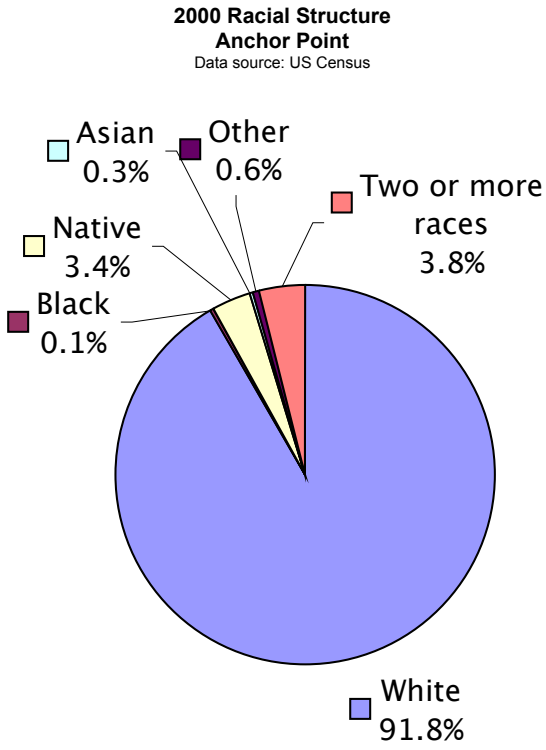
Demographic Profile

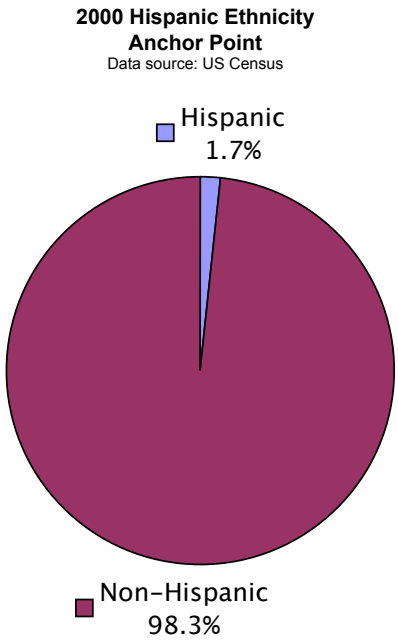
In 2000, Anchor Point had 1,845 residents in 711 households. All residents live in households rather than group quarters. The gender composition of the community is slightly skewed, at 53.6% male and 46.4% female. The racial makeup of Anchor Point is as follows: White 91.8%, Alaska Native or American Indian (3.4%), Black (0.1%), Asian (0.3%), other (0.6%), and two or more races (3.8%). A total of 6.4% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. Residents of Hispanic origin make up 1.7% of the population. The median age in Anchor Point was 39 years, slightly older than the U.S. national median of 35.3 years. In terms of educational attainment, 87.4% of residents 25 years of age or older held a high school diploma.

History

Kenaitze Indians, so named by early Russian fur traders, have occupied the Kenai Peninsula area near Anchor Point for thousands of years. The area is historically considered to be Dena'ina Athabascan Indian territory, although archaeological sites on Kachemak Bay suggest the presence of Pacific Eskimo or Alutiiq people as early as 4,500 years ago (Halliday 1998: 183). The present-day community got its name from the 1778 crew of Captain James Cook who, while sailing into Cook Inlet looking for the Northwest Passage, lost an anchor in the strong local tidal currents.







Infrastructure

Current Economy

Commercial and sport fishing activities form the backbone of Anchor Point's economy. The tourism industry is also growing. The North Pacific Volcano Learning Center, a $22 million facility, is currently under development. The median annual per capita income is $18,668, and the median household income

is $41,094. Approximately 8.7% of the total potential labor force is unemployed, and 35.3% of residents 16 years of age and older were not in the labor force (i.e. not working and not seeking work). Approximately 11.9% of residents live below the poverty level.

Governance

Anchor Point is an unincorporated city under the jurisdiction of the Kenai Peninsula Borough. The borough is responsible for the administration of taxes and services. There is a National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) office and an Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office located nearby in Homer. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Anchor Point is accessible by road via the Sterling Highway. Air service and state ferry service, through the nearby city of Homer, connect Anchor Point to other cities in Alaska. Roundtrip airfare from Homer to Anchorage is $175.

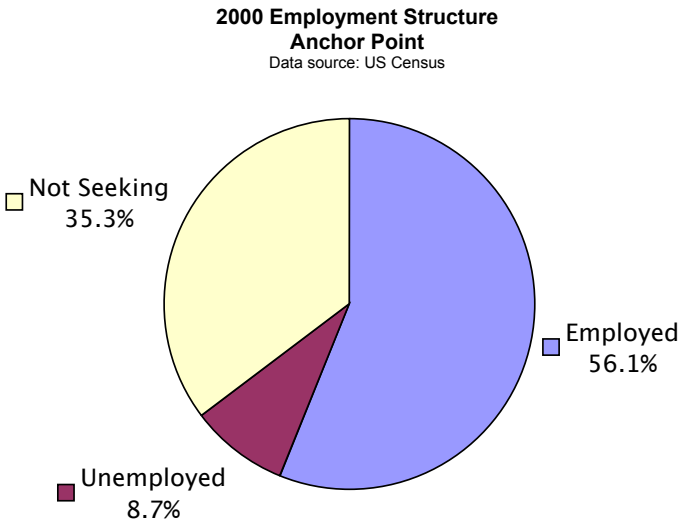
Utilities such as water and sewer are supplied by individuals through wells and septic tanks. Electricity comes from the Homer Electric Association, which generates power at the Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Plant and from a gas turbine plant located in Soldotna. The borough provides police services and the city has a volunteer fire department.

There is one school located in Anchor Point, offering instruction to students from kindergarten through eighth grade. There are a total of 14 teachers and 149 students in the local schools. High school students attend school in Homer.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing*

Commercial fishing, particularly in the salmon and groundfish fisheries, is an important part of the economy of Anchor Point. In 2000, 80 residents held a total of 168 commercial fishing permits for the following fisheries: salmon, halibut, sablefish, other groundfish, herring, and crab. There were 19 vessel owners for federal fisheries and 130 registered crew members residing in the community. The following section contains a detailed description of commercial permits.



Crab: Nine residents held a total of 10 commercial permits in the crab fishery, but none of these permits was fished. A detailed breakdown of crab permits is as follows: one Dungeness crab pot gear permit for vessels under 60 feet in the westward region; one Dungeness crab ring net permit for Cook Inlet; and 8 Dungeness crab pot gear permit for vessels over 60 feet in Cook Inlet.

Halibut: Thirty-three residents held a total of 34 permits for the halibut fishery (24 fished). A detailed breakdown of halibut permits is as follows: 2 halibut hand troll permits for statewide waters (none fished); 19 halibut longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (16 fished); one halibut mechanical jig permit for statewide waters (none fished); and 12 halibut longline permits for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (eight fished).

Herring: Five residents held a total of eight commercial permits in the herring fishery, and only one permit was fished. A detailed breakdown of the herring permits is as follows: one herring roe purse seine permit for Prince William Sound (none fished); one herring roe purse seine permit for Cook Inlet (none fished); one herring roe purse seine permit for Bristol Bay (none fished); two herring roe gillnet permits for Security Cove (none fished); two herring roe gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (one fished); and one herring roe kelp spawn permit for Prince William Sound (none fished).

Sablefish: Fifteen residents held a total of 17 commercial permits for the sablefish fishery, and nine permits were actually fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: 13 sablefish longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters

(seven fished); two sablefish fixed gear permits for vessels under 50 feet in Prince William Sound (none fished); one sablefish fixed gear permit for vessels under 35 feet in Prince William Sound (one fished); and one sablefish longline permit for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (one fished).

Other Groundfish: Twenty-eight residents held a total of 46 commercial permits for the groundfish fishery, and 27 permits were fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: one lingcod longline permit for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (none fished), 6 lingcod mechanical jig permits for statewide waters (4 fished), 2 miscellaneous saltwater finfish hand troll permits for statewide waters (none fished), 23 miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (14 fished, one miscellaneous saltwater finfish pot gear permit for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (one fished), 9 miscellaneous saltwater finfish mechanical jig permits for statewide waters (5 fished), 2 miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline permits for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (2 fished), and 2 miscellaneous saltwater finfish pot gear permits for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (one fished).

Salmon: Forty-eight residents held a total of 48 commercial permits in the salmon fishery, and 43 permits fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: one salmon purse seine permit for Prince William Sound (one fished), 3 salmon purse seine permits for Kodiak (none fished), one salmon beach seine permit for Kodiak (none fished), 5 salmon drift gillnet permits for Prince William Sound (5 fished), 15 salmon drift gillnet permits for Cook Inlet (16 fished), 2 salmon drift gillnet permits for the Alaska Peninsula (2 fished), 5 salmon drift gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (6 fished), 10 salmon drift gillnet permits for Cook Inlet (9 fished), 3 salmon drift gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (4 fished), one salmon hand troll permit for statewide waters (none fished), and 2 salmon fish wheel permits for the Upper Yukon River (none fished).

In 2000, there were no fish processors in Anchor Point and no registered landings. Most local vessels make landings to processors in Homer, approximately 15 miles away. In 2002, the Kenai Peninsula Borough was granted $810 in federal funds to compensate for fisheries losses due to Steller sea lion habitat protection under the Endangered Species Act. In 2003, the Kenai Peninsula Borough was granted $623,295 in federal disaster funds to compensate for falling salmon prices. A portion of these sums will likely be used for programs that affect Anchor Point.

Sport Fishing

The sport fishing industry primarily revolves around halibut in Cook Inlet and Kachemak Bay, but silver, sockeye and pink salmon are also important. Nearby rivers offer fishing for steelhead and Dolly Varden, as well.

In 2000, sport fishing license sales in Anchor Point totaled 3,217, including 2,194 sold to non-residents. There were 26 registered saltwater sport fishing guides and 13 freshwater sport fishing guides in Anchor Point in 2002.

Subsistence

Because of its location on the populous Kenai Peninsula, Anchor Point is not eligible to participate in subsistence fishing in federally managed waters.

Clam Gulch (return to communities)

People and Place

Location

Clam Gulch is located on the Kenai Peninsula, 24 miles south of the city of Kenai via the Sterling Highway. The area encompasses 13.7 square miles of land.

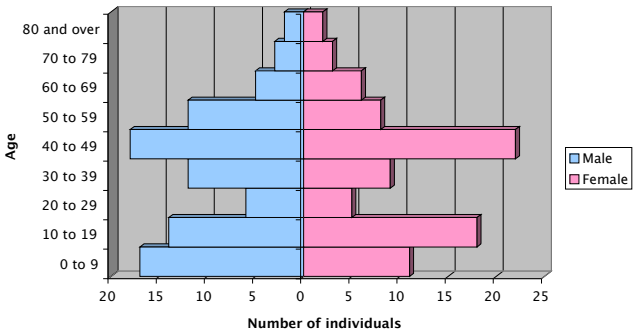
Demographic Profile

In 2000, there were 173 residents in 67 households in Clam Gulch. All residents lived in households rather than group quarters. The gender composition of the community was slightly skewed, at 51.4% male and 48.6% female. The racial makeup of Clam Gulch is predominantly White (92.5%), with small Alaska Native (2.9%) and Asian (1.2%) populations. Approximately 3.5% of the population consists of residents of two or more races, primarily White and Alaska Native. A total of 5.8% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. In addition, 1.7% of residents were of Hispanic ethnicity. The median age of the community is 37.5 years, slightly older than the U.S. national average of 35.3. The community has grown steadily, more than tripling its population since 1970. Census data was not collected in Clam Gulch prior to 1970. The educational situation is such that 89.7% of residents have a high school diploma or higher educational attainment.

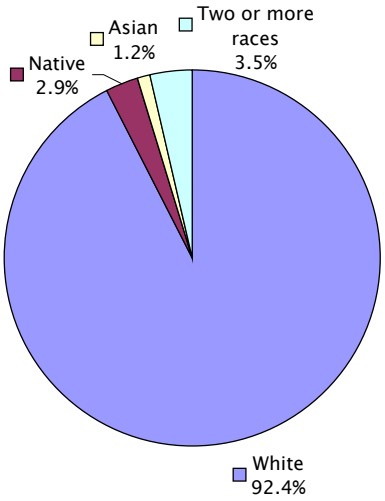
History

Although the Kenai Peninsula itself has been occupied by Athabascan people for thousands of years, there were no known early settlements in the vicinity of Clam Gulch. It has only been permanently occupied by White settlers since the early 20th century. The present-day community gets its name from the abundant razor clams that thrive along the area's sandy shorelines. A post office was established in the community in 1950.

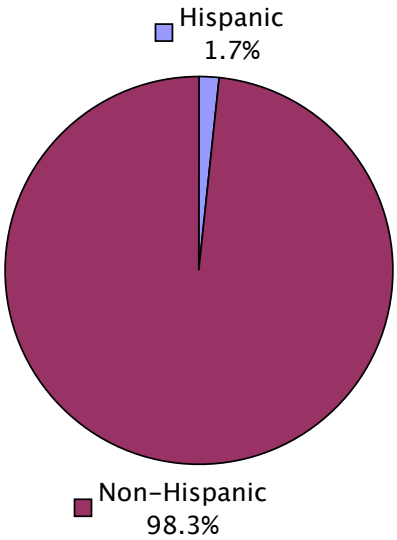
2000 Population Structure
Clam Gulch
Data source: US Census



2000 Racial Structure
Clam Gulch
Data source: US Census



2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Clam Gulch
Data source: US Census



Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Clam Gulch revolves around commercial fishing, primarily in the Cook Inlet salmon and halibut fisheries. In addition, many residents seek employment in the larger economy of nearby Kenai.

Other employment opportunities include a tourist lodge and post office.

In 2000, the average per capita income was $17,983, and the average household income was $37,500. Approximately 15.3% of the total potential labor force is unemployed, and 43.1% of residents 16 years of age and older were not in the labor force (i.e. not employed and not seeking work). Approximately 8.1% of residents were living below the poverty level.

Governance

Clam Gulch is an unincorporated city under the jurisdiction of the Kenai Peninsula Borough. The borough administers a 2% sales tax and a 0.65% (6.5 mills) property tax. Schools in Clam Gulch are operated by the Kenai Peninsula School District. There is an office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game located nearby in Kenai. The nearest National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) office and U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services office are both located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Clam Gulch is accessible by road from Anchorage via the Sterling Highway. The nearby airport in Kenai provides access to communities throughout Alaska. Roundtrip airfare from Kenai to Anchorage is $134.

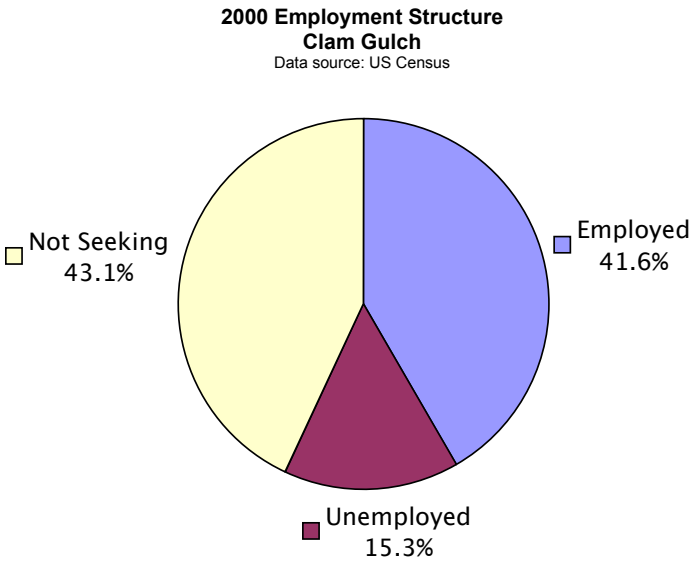
Most homes use individual wells and septic tanks. Electricity is supplied by the Homer Electric Association, which uses both hydroelectric power stations and natural gas generators. The nearest health care services are at Central Peninsula Hospital in Soldotna. There are no schools located in Clam Gulch; students attend school in nearby Kenai.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing, particularly in the salmon fishery, is a major part of the local economy of Clam Gulch. In 2000, there were four vessel owners operating in federal fisheries who resided in the community. There were 35 registered crew members. During the same year, 29 local residents held a total of 46 commercial fishing permits, and 29 of these permits were actually fished. This section contains a detailed description of commercial fishing activities.

Halibut: Seven local residents held a total of seven permits for the halibut fishery, and six permits



were fished. A detailed breakdown of the permits is as follows: three halibut longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (two fished); and four halibut longline permits for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (four fished).

Herring: Five local residents held a total of six permits for the herring fishery, but no permits were fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: two herring roe purse seine permits for Cook Inlet (none fished), and four herring roe gillnet permits for Cook Inlet (none fished).

Other Groundfish: Three local residents held a total of three permits for the groundfish fishery, but only one permit was actually fished. All three permits were for miscellaneous saltwater finfish, for longline vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters.

Salmon: Twenty-eight residents held a total of 30 permits for the salmon fishery, and 22 permits were fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: two salmon purse seine permits for Cook Inlet (none fished), one salmon purse seine permit for Kodiak (one fished), three salmon drift gillnet permits for Cook Inlet (three fished), and 24 salmon set gillnet permits for Cook Inlet (18 fished).

There were no processors and no registered landings for Clam Gulch in 2000. In 2002, the Kenai Peninsula Borough was granted $810 in federal funds to compensate for fisheries losses due to Steller sea lion habitat protection under the Endangered Species Act. In 2003, the Kenai Peninsula Borough was granted $623,295 in federal disaster funds to compensate for falling salmon prices. A portion of this sum will likely be used for programs that affect Clam Gulch.

Sport Fishing

The area is a major destination for sport fishermen around the world who come to fish in Cook Inlet for halibut and in the Kenai River for salmon. There is also sport fishing for trout in the nearby Kasilof and Ninilchik Rivers. The Major sport fish species include halibut, Chinook, Coho, Pink and Sockeye salmon, rainbow trout, steelhead, and Dolly Varden.

In 2000, a total of 290 sport fishing permits were sold in Clam Gulch, including 144 to non-Alaska residents. In 2002 there were three registered freshwater sport fishing guides in Clam Gulch and six saltwater guides.

Subsistence

Because of its location on the populous Kenai Peninsula, Clam Gulch is ineligible for subsistence fishing in federal waters.

Halibut Cove (return to communities)

People and Place

Location

Halibut Cove lies on the south shore of the Kachemak Bay within the Kachemak Bay State Park on the Kenai Peninsula. It is located 12 miles across the inlet from the Homer Spit. The area encompasses 8.1 square miles of land and 3.2 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of Halibut Cove was 35. Total population numbers have remained relatively stable over the latter half of the 20th century. The number of residents may rise into the thousands in the summer when visitors swell the population. This trend is substantiated by the relatively high number of seasonally vacant housing units.

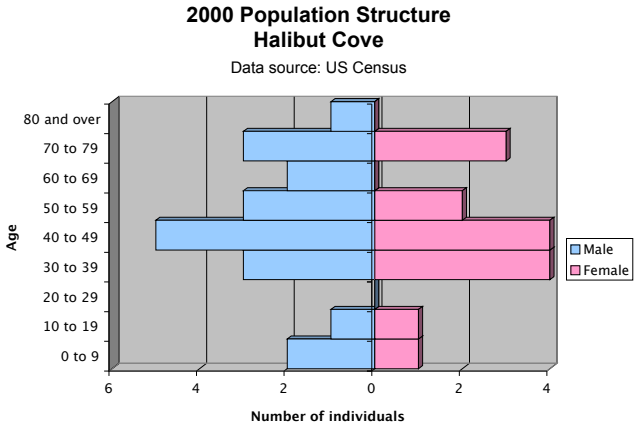
There were substantially more males (57.1%) than females (42.9%) in Halibut Cove in 2000. The racial composition of the population in included 97.1% White, and 2.9% of the population recognized themselves as two or more races (all or part Alaska Native or American Indian). None of the population identified as Hispanic. The median age was 47.3 years which is above the national median of 35.3 years. According to 2000 census data only 14.3% of the population was under 19 years of age while 34.4% of the population was over 55 years of age.

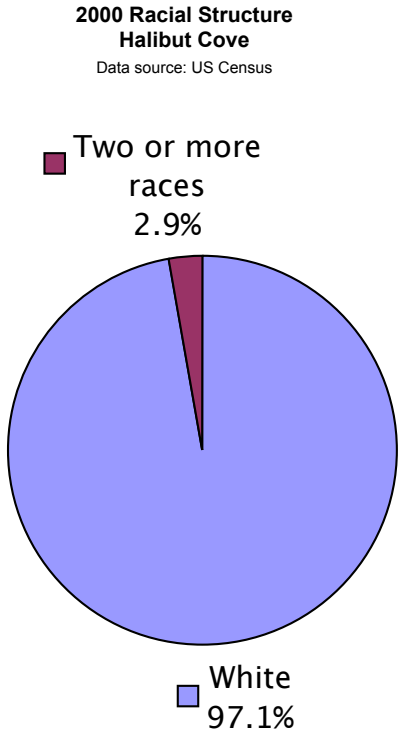
There were 123 housing units in Halibut Cove in 2000 and of these, 104 were vacant due to seasonal use. None of the population lived in group quarters. About 100% of the population had a high school diploma or higher, while 33.3% had a bachelor's degree or higher.

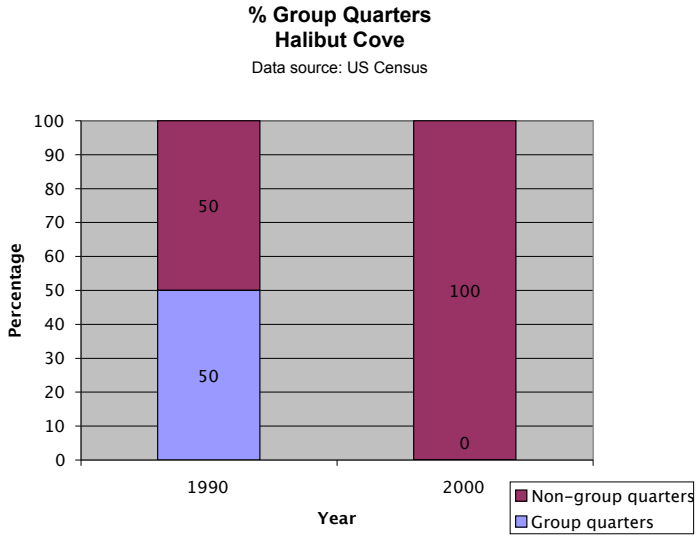
History

Due to its maritime climate and easy access, South-central Alaska has long been a gathering place for diverse Native Alaskans. The area around Kachemak Bay is historically considered to be Dena'ina Athabascan Indian territory, although archaeological sites suggest the presence of Pacific Eskimo or Alutiiq people as early as 4,500 years ago (Halliday 1998: 183).

Halibut Cove itself was named by W.H. Dall of the U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey in 1880. Russian, and subsequently American, attempts to exploit

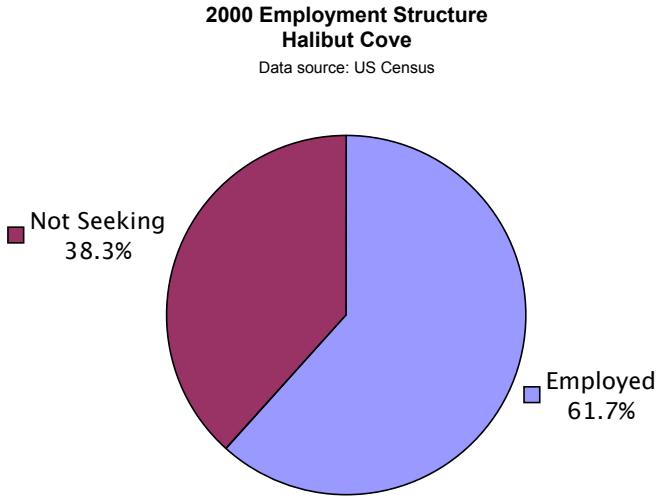






Kachemak Bay coal in the area in late 1800's proved to be unsuccessful (Alaska Historical Commission). Between 1911 and 1928, Halibut Cove had a high number of herring salteries and a population of over 1,000, according to one resident. Later, fox farming and homesteading became important endeavors in the area. From 1928 to 1975 the population stayed around 40 - mostly fishermen.

The contemporary community of Halibut Cove is primarily an artist colony, pioneered by Diana and former state legislature Clem Tillion. Several artists live and work in Halibut Cove, attracting visitors and apprentices to their galleries and studios.



Infrastructure

Current Economy

Halibut Cove is largely an artist colony. Seasonal construction jobs are also prevalent. A total of 11 commercial fishing permits were held by eight permit holders in 2000 according to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (ACFEC). At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, 61.7% of the potential labor force was employed and there was no unemployment rate. A high percentage, 38.3% of the population over 16 years of age, was not in the labor force but may be seasonally involved with the commercial fishing industry, and 10.6% of the population was below the poverty level. The median household income in the same year was $127,010 and the per capita income was $89,895.

Governance

Halibut Cove is an unincorporated city within the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Because of the city's status as unincorporated, there are no city or borough officials, nor are there municipal or borough finances dispersed to the city. Halibut Cove is not a member of Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), therefore there was no land allotted under the Act. Halibut Cove is not a federally recognized Native village nor does it have a Native village corporation or belong to a regional Native corporation.

The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) office is in Homer, as is the nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BSIC) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Halibut Cove is accessible only by air and sea as the Sterling Highway ends in Homer on the north shore of Kachemak Bay. Boat and floatplanes are the primary means of transportation. Several air service companies charter flights to and from Halibut Cove, however, there are no regular scheduled flights. Kachemak Bay Ferry Service provides transportation to Homer. The community is therefore linked indirectly to the network of communities visited by ferries on the Alaska Marine Highway and receives year-round barge services and state ferry service. In Homer, the city-owned airport has a 6,700 foot paved runway, as well as a seaplane base. There is also a deep-water dock capable of accommodating 340 foot-long vessels and a boat harbor with moorage for 920 vessels.

Halibut Cove residents derive water from a central water source or have water delivered. Only a few homes have individual wells. Half of all residences have individual septic systems or are fully plumbed. Sewage is dealt with on an individual basis. Refuse collection is operated by private operators. Electricity is provided by the Homer Electric Association. There are no local health care facilities or public safety providers. Halibut cove is within the Kenai Peninsula School District, but there are no schools located directly in Halibut Cove. There are eight schools located in nearby Homer, including three elementary schools, one middle school, two high schools, and two multi-grade academies. There are a total of 101 teachers and 1,452 students in the local schools.

Involvement with North Pacific fisheries

Commercial Fishing

According to the ADF&G, and reported by ACFEC, 11 permits were held by 8 permit holders, but only 7 permits were fished in Halibut Cove in 2000. There was one vessel owner in the federal fisheries, three vessel owners in the salmon fishery and only one crew member claiming residence in Halibut Cove. There are no fish processing plants in Halibut Cove and therefore no landings delivered to the community.

Commercial fishing permits are issued according to specifications of species, vessel size, gear type, and fishing area. Permits issued in Halibut Cove for 2000 related to halibut, sablefish, and salmon.

Halibut: There were a total of three permits issued for halibut in Halibut Cove in 2000, two of which were fished. Permits for halibut pertained to one longline vessel under 60 feet and two longline vessels over 60 feet. All permits designated for halibut were for statewide waters.

Sablefish: A total of two sablefish permits were issued, one of which was fished. Permits pertained to one longline vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (not fished) and one longline vessel over 60 feet in statewide waters.

Salmon: A total of six permits were issued for the salmon fishery, four of which were fished. Salmon permits pertained to two purse seine restricted to Cook Inlet (one fished), one purse seine restricted to Kodiak (not fished), three drift gillnets limited to Cook Inlet.

It was announced in July 2003 that the Kenai Peninsula Borough, in which Halibut Cove is located, has been allocated $623,295 worth of federal salmon disaster funds to be distributed to several municipalities statewide which have been affected by low salmon prices in order to compensate for consequent losses of salmon taxes or raw fish taxes. The disbursement of these disaster funds illustrates state and federal responses to communities and boroughs affected by falling salmon prices. Communities and boroughs are ultimately responsible for the allocation of the funds. Further disbursements are expected in the future to offset the costs of basic public services for which fish taxes become insufficient. In 2002, the Kenai Peninsula received $810 as part of a federal fund set-up in accordance with the Endangered Species Act to offset costs to fisheries and communities due to Steller sea lion protection regulations.

Sport Fishing

There are a few fishing charter companies operating in Halibut Cove. Nearby Homer is major sport fishing destination and may inspire people to visit surrounding communities such as Halibut Cove for a less crowded scene. Kachemak Bay is considered to be one of Alaska's most popular destinations for halibut fishing, with frequent catches purportedly weighing 100 to 200 lbs. In fact, halibut, weighing up to 350 lbs are fished between June and September.

Subsistence Fishing

There is no archival evidence of, or information on, contemporary subsistence practices in Halibut Cove. Though many residents in Halibut Cove may engage in subsistence practices to some extent, in recent years the Kenai Peninsula has been classified as "non-rural," so residents have not been permitted to harvest subsistence resources from federally managed lands and waters.

Homer (return to communities)

People and Place

Location

Homer is a first-class city located on the southwestern edge of the Kenai Peninsula, in the Kenai Peninsula Borough. It encompasses 10.6 square miles of land and 11.9 square miles of water.

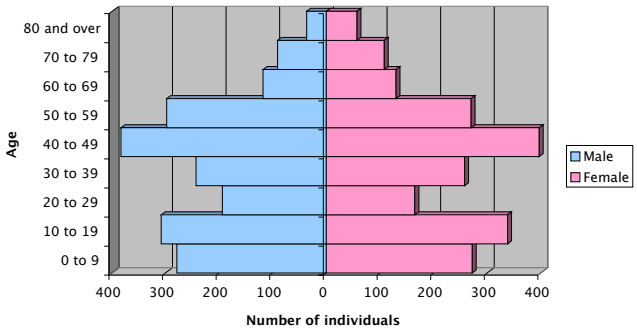
Demographic Profile

As a result of the recent boom in the commercial and sport fishing industries, the population of Homer has tripled since 1960. In 2000, the community had 3,946 residents in 1,599 households. A small proportion of the population (106 people, or 2.7%) live in group quarters. The gender composition of the community is relatively equal, at 49.4% male and 50.6% female. The racial makeup of Homer is as follows: White 90.5%, Alaska Native or American Indian (4.2%), Black (0.3%), Asian (0.9%), Hawaiian Native (0.1%), other (0.7%), and two or more races (3.1%). A total of 6.2% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. Residents of Hispanic origin make up 2.4% of the population. The median age in Homer is 38.8 years, slightly older than the U.S. national average of 35.3.

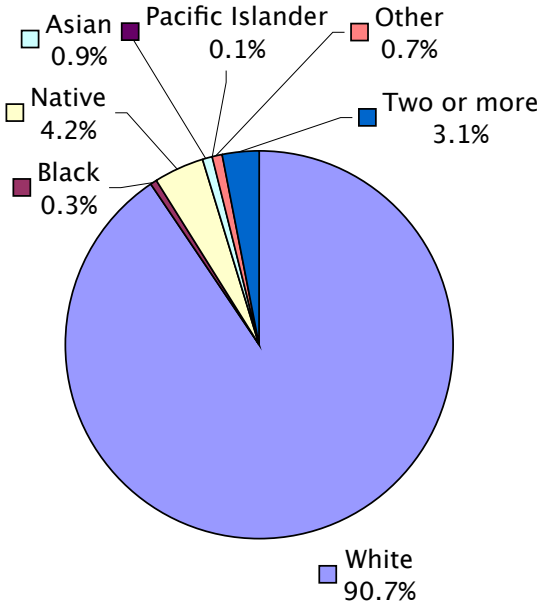
History

Kenaitze Indians, so named by early Russian fur traders, have occupied the Homer area for thousands of years. The area is historically considered to be Dena'ina Athabascan Indian territory, although archaeological sites on Kachemak Bay suggest the presence of Pacific Eskimo or Alutiiq people as early as 4,500 years ago (Halliday 1998: 183). The modern community of Homer was named for Homer Pennock, a gold mining company promoter, who arrived in 1896 with a crew of 50 men. Since that time, Homer's economy has depended upon natural resource industries such as coal and oil.

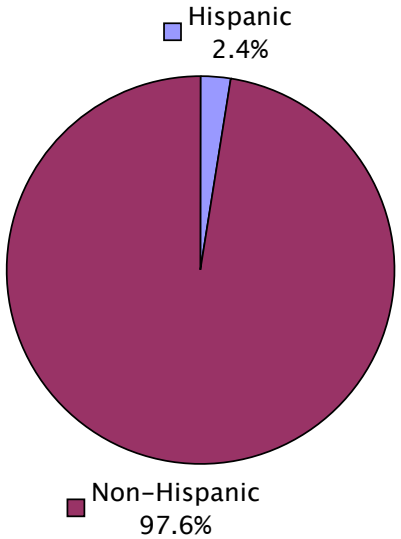
2000 Population Structure
Homer
Data source: US Census



2000 Racial Structure
Homer
Data source: US Census



2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Homer
Data source: US Census



Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Homer is dominated by the commercial and sport fishing industries. Fish processing is also a significant factor in the local economy, as are marine-related trades, welding, canvas work, and electronics. Tourism is a growing industry in

Homer; in recent years, the city has developed a small but growing artist community. The South Peninsula Hospital, located in Homer, is a major source of employment. Because of the city's dependence on fishing, the population swells during the summer months as seasonal laborers come to take advantage of jobs in fishing, fish processing, and related activities.

The median annual per capita income in 2000 was $21,823, and the median household income was $42,821. Approximately 5.8% of the total potential labor force was unemployed, and 32.7% of residents aged 16 and older were not in the labor force (i.e. not employed and not seeking work). Approximately 9.3% of residents lived below the poverty level

Governance

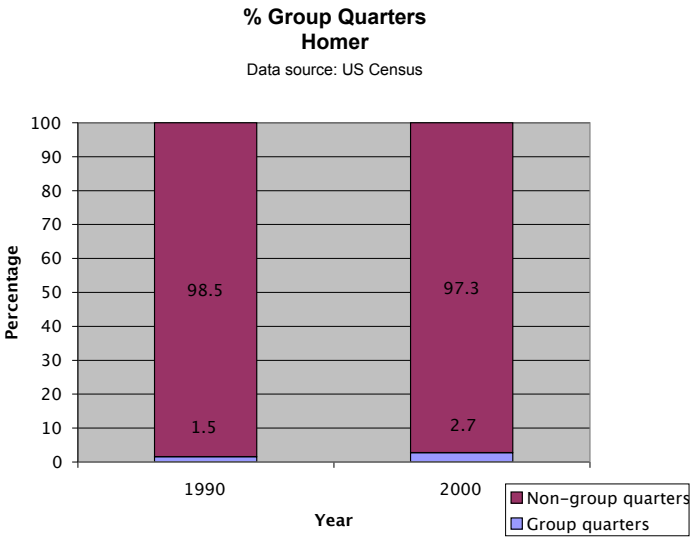
Homer was incorporated in 1964 and has a manager form of government. The city is in the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Government revenues come from a 3.5% sales tax administered by the city, and a 2% sales tax administered by the borough. There is also a 0.69% (or 6.85 mill) property tax administered by the city and a 0.65% (or 6.5 mill) property tax administered by the borough.

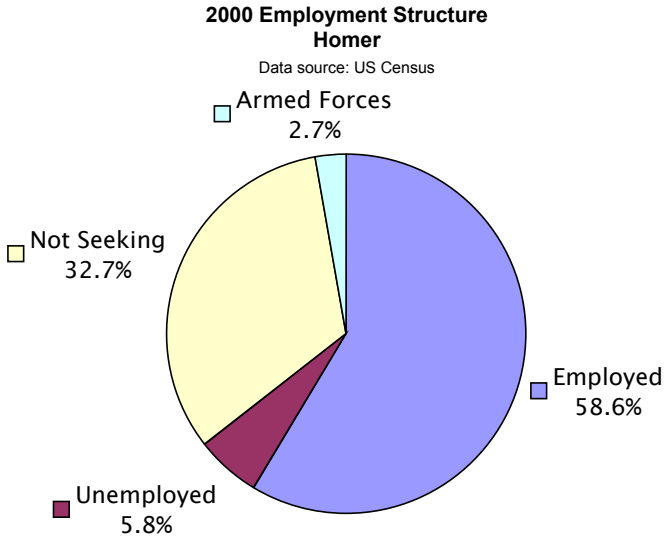
There is a National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) office and an Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office located in Homer. The nearest office of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Homer is accessible by air from many of Alaska's cities, and by road via the Sterling Highway. The city-owned airport has a 6,700 foot paved runway, as well as a seaplane base. Roundtrip airfare from Homer to Anchorage is $175. There is also a deep-water dock capable of accommodating 340 foot-long vessels and a boat harbor with moorage for 920 vessels.

Major utilities, including water, sewer, and electricity, are provided by the city. Electricity comes from the Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Plant and from a gas turbine plant located in Soldotna. The city also provides police and volunteer fire services. The city operates eight cranes at the docks for fish landings. There are eight schools located in Homer, including three elementary schools, one middle school, two high schools, and two multi-grade academies. There are a total of 101 teachers and 1,452 students in the local schools.





Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing, particularly in the halibut, salmon, and groundfish fisheries, is a major part of the economy of Homer. In 2000, there were 132 vessel owners with operations in federal fisheries and 262 vessel owners with operations in state fisheries who resided in Homer. There were 759 registered crew members. In 2000, 539 Homer residents held a total of 1,150 commercial fishing permits. The following section describes the permits in detail by fishery group, gear, and vessel type.

Crab: Fifty-nine residents held a total of 75 commercial permits in the crab fishery, and 27 of these permits were fished. A detailed breakdown of crab permits is as follows: 41 Dungeness crab pot gear

permits for vessels over 60 feet in Cook Inlet (none fished), one Korean hair crab pot gear permit for vessels over 60 feet in the Bering Sea (none fished), three King crab pot gear permit for vessels under 60 feet in Norton Sound (two fished), one pot gear permit for red, blue, brown, king, and Tanner crab in the southeast region (one fished), one king crab pot gear permit for vessels over 60 feet in Dutch Harbor (one fished), two king crab pot gear permits for vessels over 60 feet in the Bering Sea (none fished), 12 king crab pot gear permit for vessels over 60 feet in Bristol Bay (11 fished), 13 Tanner crab pot gear permits for vessels over 60 feet in the Bering Sea (11 fished), and one Tanner crab pot gear permit, issued to the Bering Sea Community Development Quota, for vessels over 60 feet in the Bering Sea (one fished).

Other Shellfish: Twenty-three residents held a total of 26 permits for other shellfish, and 10 permits were fished. A detailed breakdown of the permits is as follows: one octopus/squid longline permit for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (none fished), 3 octopus/squid pot gear permits for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (one fished), 2 shrimp pot gear permits for vessels under 60 feet in Prince William Sound (none fished), 2 shrimp pot gear permits for vessels over 60 feet in the westward region (none fished), 3 sea cucumber diving gear permits for statewide waters excluding the southeast region (two fished); 13 clam shovel permits for statewide waters (6 fished), one sea urchin diving gear permit for statewide waters, excluding the southeast region (none fished), and one scallop dredge permit for statewide waters (one fished).

Halibut: One hundred ninety-seven residents held a total of 210 commercial halibut permits, and 167 permits were fished. A detailed breakdown of the permits is as follows: 8 halibut hand troll permits for statewide waters (2 fished), 136 halibut longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (114 fished), 10 halibut mechanical jig permits for statewide waters (2 fished), and 56 halibut longline permits for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (49 fished).

Herring: Eighty-one residents held a total of 133 commercial permits in the herring fishery, and 42 permits were fished. A detailed breakdown of the permits is as follows: 4 herring roe purse seine permits for the southeast region (four fished), 17 herring roe purse seine permits for Prince William Sound (none fished), 20 herring roe purse seine permits for Cook Inlet (none fished), 10 herring roe purse seine permits for the Kodiak fishery (two fished), 3 herring roe purse seine permits for the Alaska Peninsula (none fished), 27 herring roe purse seine permits for Bristol Bay (21 fished); seven herring roe gillnet permits for the Kodiak fishery (one fished, six herring roe gillnet permits for Security Cove (3 fished), 9 herring roe gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (4 fished), one herring roe gillnet permits for Nunivak Island (one fished), 8 herring roe gillnet permits for Norton Sound (4 fished), 3 herring bait purse seine permits for the Alaska Peninsula (2 fished), 3 herring roe dive/hand pick permits for Bristol Bay (none fished), and 15 herring roe kelp spawn permits for Prince William Sound (none fished).

Sablefish: Seventy-one residents held a total of 81 commercial permits for the sablefish fishery, and 58 permits were fished. A detailed breakdown of the permits is as follows: 53 sablefish longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (40 fished), one sablefish mechanical jig permit for statewide waters (none fished), 8 sablefish fixed gear permit for vessels under 50 feet in Prince William Sound (one fished), one sablefish fixed gear permit for vessels under 35 feet for Prince William Sound (none fished), 2 sablefish longline permits for vessels over 60 feet in the northern southeast region (3 fished), and 16 sablefish longline permits for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (14 fished).

Other Groundfish: One hundred eighty-four residents held a total of 274 commercial permits in the groundfish fishery, and 113 permits were fished. A detailed breakdown of the permits is as follows: two lingcod hand troll permits for statewide waters (none fished), 5 lingcod longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (none fished), 29 lingcod mechanical jig permits for statewide waters (13 fished), 5 miscellaneous saltwater finfish hand troll permits for statewide waters (one fished), 96 miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (44 fished), 2 miscellaneous saltwater finfish otter trawl permits for statewide waters (2 fished), 23 miscellaneous saltwater finfish pot gear permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (8 fished), 67 miscellaneous saltwater finfish mechanical jig permits for statewide waters (20 fished), 18 miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline permits for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (9 fished), 24

miscellaneous saltwater finfish pot gear permits for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (16 fished), one demersal shelf rockfish mechanical jig permit in the southeast region (none fished), and two demersal shelf rockfish longline permit for vessels over 60 feet in the southeast region (none fished).

Salmon: Three hundred thirty-four residents held a total of 350 commercial permits in the salmon fishery, and 291 permits were fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: one salmon purse seine permit for the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands (one fished), 2 salmon beach seine permits for the Kodiak fishery (none fished), 41 salmon drift gillnet permits for Prince William Sound (41 fished), 102 salmon drift gillnet permits for Cook Inlet (92 fished), 21 salmon drift gillnet permits for the Alaska Peninsula (22 fished), 46 salmon drift gillnet permits for the Bristol Bay fishery (50 fished), one salmon set gillnet permit for Yakutat (none fished), 2 salmon set gillnet permits for Prince William Sound (2 fished), 23 salmon set gillnet permits for Cook Inlet (17 fished), one salmon set gillnet permit for the Kodiak fishery (none fished), 2 salmon set gillnet permits for Prince William Sound (2 fished), 23 salmon set gillnet permits for Cook Inlet (17 fished), one salmon set gillnet permits for the Kodiak fishery (two fished), one salmon set gillnet permit for the Alaska Peninsula (one fished), 19 salmon set gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (18 fished), one salmon hand troll permit for statewide waters (none fished), and one salmon power gurdy troll permit for statewide waters (one fished).

Other Finfish: There was one freshwater miscellaneous finfish set gillnet permit issued in Homer, but the permit was not fished.

Homer is also an important hub for commercial fish processing, with six registered processors and a total of 2,660 tons of processed fish from federally managed fisheries in 2000. For that year, vessels made deliveries to processors in Homer for the following fisheries: sablefish (41 vessels), halibut (142 vessels), other groundfish (109 vessels), and salmon (4 vessels).

In 2002, the Kenai Peninsula Borough received $810 in federal funds in compensation for fisheries losses due to Steller sea lion habitat protection under the Endangered Species Act. In 2003, Homer received $80,914 in federal salmon disaster funds to compensate the community for falling salmon prices. The Kenai Peninsula Borough as a whole received $623,295 in salmon compensation funds.

Sport Fishing

The importance of sport fishing to the economy of Homer cannot be overstated. Fishermen from Alaska, the lower 48 U.S. states, Canada and elsewhere come to Homer to fish in Cook Inlet, Kachemak Bay, and nearby rivers. The sport fishing industry primarily revolves around halibut, but silver, sockeye and pink salmon are also important. Nearby rivers offer fishing for steelhead and Dolly Varden, as well.

In 2000, sport fishing license sales in Homer totaled 20,550, including 14,664 sold to non-residents. There were 84 registered saltwater sport fishing guides and 21 freshwater sport fishing guides in Homer in 2002.

Subsistence Fishing

Many residents in Homer depend to some degree upon subsistence resources for their livelihoods. In recent years, however, the Kenai Peninsula has been classified as "non-rural" under subsistence designation, so residents have not been permitted to harvest subsistence resources from federally managed lands and waters. Significant harvesting of subsistence resource still occurs on state-managed lands and waters.

In terms of historical reliance on subsistence, the ADF&G's Division of Subsistence reported in 1982 that 86.7% of households in Homer used salmon for subsistence (all five Pacific species), and 92.5% used non-salmon fish (including halibut, trout, herring, and other species). A significant portion of households (87.9%) also used marine invertebrates (including clams, crabs, mussels, and shrimp) for subsistence.

The average annual per capita harvest of subsistence foods for Homer residents in 1982 was 93.8 pounds, and was comprised of the following resources: salmon (21.2%), non-salmon fish (31.9%), land mammals (25.4%), marine invertebrates (17.9%), birds and eggs (2.1%), and vegetation (1.9%). The most important variety of non-salmon fish for Homer residents is halibut, primarily from Cook Inlet. Salmon is landed from Cook Inlet, Kachemak Bay, and nearby rivers.

Kasilof (return to communities)

People and Place

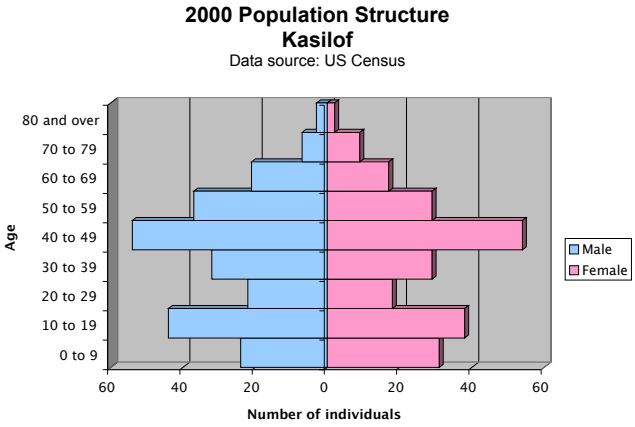
Location

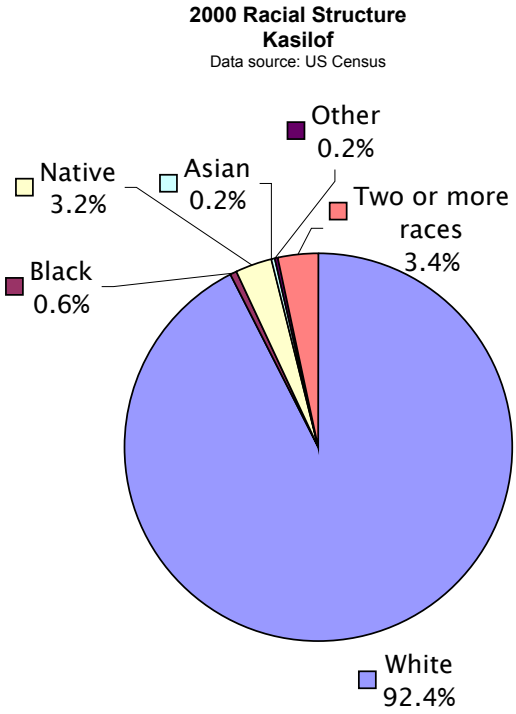
Kasilof is located on the Kenai Peninsula, 12 miles south of the city of Kenai. Its area encompasses 10.4 square miles of land and 0.2 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

In 2000, there were 471 residents in Kasilof living in 180 households. The racial makeup was as follows: White (92.4%), Alaska Native or American Indian (3.2%), Black (0.6%), Asian (0.2%), other (0.2%), and two or more races (3.4%). Residents of Hispanic origin comprised less than 0.2% of the population. The Alaska Native population, including those of mixed race, comprised 6.2% of the total population of Kasilof. The gender ratio was skewed towards males who comprised 51.8% of the population, whereas females made-up 48.2% of the population. The median age of Kasilof residents was 39.6 years, slightly older than the U.S. national median of 35.3 years.

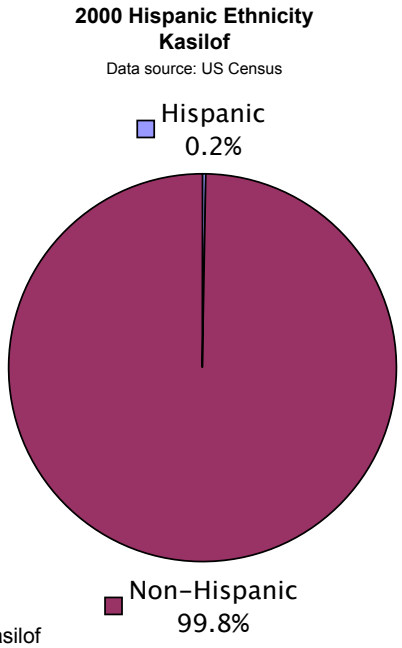
All residents lived in households rather than group quarters, and the average household size was 2.6 people. Population growth has been steady in recent years, more than doubling since 1980. Approximately 85.3% of residents over age 25 have a high school diploma or higher educational attainment.





History

Archaeological surveys have revealed the presence of numerous Dena'ina Athabascan sites along the Kasilof River, suggesting that the area has been inhabited since the 18th century (Reger 1981). Kasilof itself is believed to have been an agricultural settlement of the Dena'ina, called "Kenaitze" by the early Russian traders who built a stockade there. European and American homesteaders started arriving and forming permanent settlements in the early 20th century.



Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Kasilof is largely focused on the fishing industry. Nearly one in three local residents holds a commercial fishing permit. Sport fishing is also a significant contributor to the local economy. Because of the town's close proximity to Kenai and

Soldotna, many Kasilof residents work in these cities.

Approximately 26.4% of residents lived below the poverty level in 2000. The median per capita income was $21,211 and the median household income was $43,929. The 2000 U.S. Census reported no unemployment, but 48.1% of residents aged 16 years and older were not in the labor force (i.e. not employed and not seeking work).

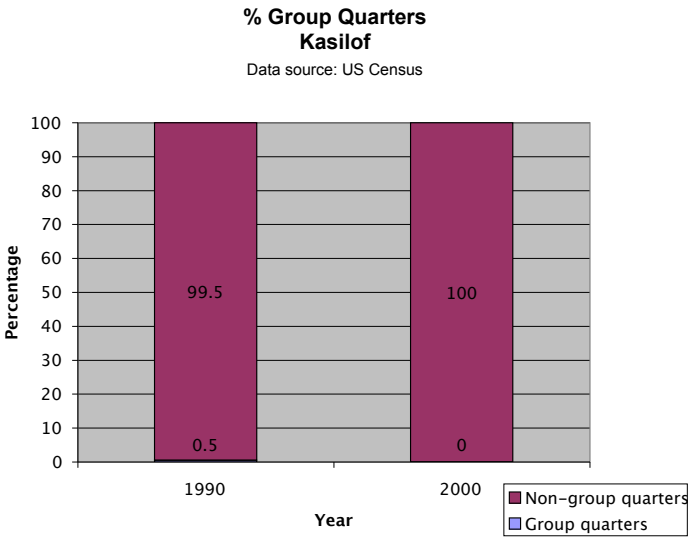
Governance

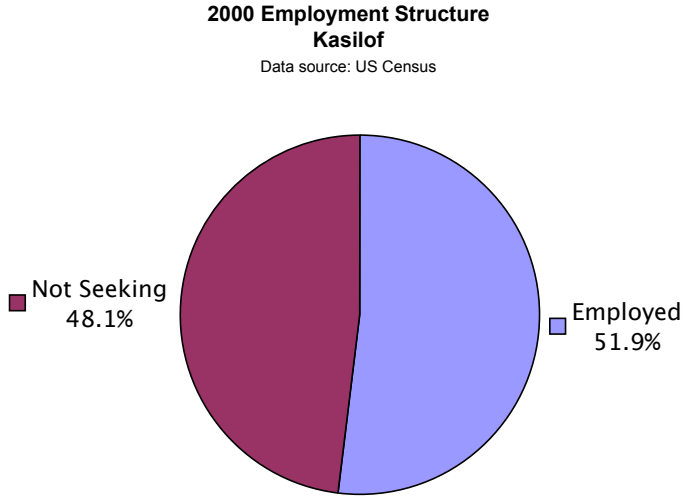
Kasilof is an unincorporated city under the jurisdiction of the Kenai Peninsula Borough. The borough administers a 2% sales tax and a 0.65% (6.5 mills) property tax.

There is an office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) located nearby in Kenai. The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) office and Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office are both located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Kasilof is accessible by air and by road via the Sterling Highway. The state operates a 2,165 foot air strip in town. Roundtrip airfare from the nearby Kenai airport to Anchorage is $134. There is also a boat launch on the Kasilof River. Most residents operate their own wells for water and their own septic tanks. Electricity in Kasilof comes from the Homer Electric Association and is generated by a hydroelectric station and a natural gas generator. There is one elementary school in Kasilof, with 14 teachers and 229 students.





Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing, particularly in the nearby Cook Inlet salmon fishery, is very important in Kasilof. In 2000, there were 8 vessel owners with operations in federal fisheries and 51 vessel owners with operations in state fisheries who resided in Kasilof. There were 142 registered crew members. There were 154 residents who held a total of 208 commercial fishing permits; this constitutes significant involvement in Alaska fisheries, despite the community's relatively small size. The following section contains detailed information about commercial permits issued to Kasilof residents in 2000.

Crab and Other Shellfish: One resident held a king crab pot gear permit for vessels under 60 feet in length, but this permit was not fished. One resident held one clam shovel permit for statewide waters, but this permit was also not fished.

Halibut: Twenty residents held a total of 20 commercial permits for the halibut fishery, and 12 of these permits were fished. A detailed breakdown of the permits is as follows: 13 halibut longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (6 fished), and 7 halibut longline permits for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (6 fished).

Herring: Twenty-three residents held a total of 28 commercial permits for the herring fishery, and 12 permits were fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: one herring roe purse seine permit for the southeast region (none fished), 2 herring roe purse seine permits for Prince William Sound (none fished), 2 herring roe purse seine permits for Cook Inlet (none fished), 2 herring roe purse seine

permits for Bristol Bay (2 fished), 11 herring roe gillnet permits for Cook Inlet (8 fished), 5 herring roe gillnet permits for the Kodiak fishery (one fished), one herring roe gillnet permit for Security Cove (none fished), 2 herring roe gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (one fished), and 2 herring roe gillnet permits for Norton Sound (none fished).

Other Groundfish: Eight residents held a total of eight permits for the groundfish fishery, but only one permit was fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: one lingcod longline permit for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (none fished), one miscellaneous saltwater finfish hand troll permit for statewide waters (none fished), two miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (none fished), one miscellaneous saltwater finfish pot gear permit for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (none fished), and three miscellaneous saltwater finfish mechanical jig permits for statewide waters (one fished).

Salmon: One hundred forty-five residents held a total of 150 permits for the salmon fishery, and 112 of these were fished. A detailed breakdown of the permits is as follows: 4 salmon purse seine permits for Prince William Sound (2 fished), 7 salmon purse seine permits for Cook Inlet (none fished), one salmon purse seine permit for Kodiak (none fished), one salmon purse seine permit for the Chignik fishery (one fished), one salmon beach seine permit for Kodiak (none fished), 3 salmon drift gillnet permits for Prince William Sound (3 fished), 32 salmon drift gillnet permits for Cook Inlet (30 fished), one salmon drift gillnet permit for the Alaska Peninsula (none fished), 4 salmon drift gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (4 fished),; 91 salmon set gillnet permits for Cook Inlet (67 fished), 4 salmon set gillnet permit for Bristol Bay (4 fished), and one salmon set gillnet permits for Kotzebue (none fished).

In 2002, the Kenai Peninsula Borough received $810 in federal funds to compensate for fisheries losses due to Steller sea lion habitat protection under the Endangered Species Act. In 2003, the Kenai Peninsula Borough received $623,295 in federal salmon disaster funds to compensate the community for falling salmon prices. A portion of these sums will likely be used for programs that affect Kasilof.

Sport Fishing

The sport fishing industry is an important part of the Kasilof economy. The area is a major destination for sport fishermen around the world who come to fish in Cook Inlet as well in the Kenai River, the most heavily fished river in Alaska The major sport fish species include halibut, chinook, coho, pink and sockeye salmon, rainbow trout, steelhead, and Dolly Varden.

In 2000, a total of 1,794 sport licenses were sold in Kenai—935 to Alaska residents and 859 to non-residents. There were 24 freshwater sport fishing guides and 10 saltwater sport fishing guides registered in Kasilof in 2002.

Subsistence Fishing

Under federal subsistence regulations, Kasilof is not designated as “rural” and therefore its residents are not eligible to harvest subsistence resources from federally managed land or waters. In 1999, five households in Kasilof held subsistence salmon harvesting permits. There is no detailed information available from the ADF&G regarding specific subsistence activities in Kasilof.

Kenai (return to communities)

People and Place

Location

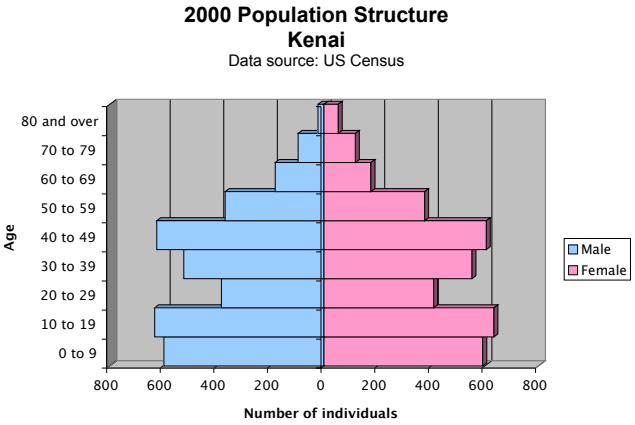
Kenai is a Home Rule city of 6,942 residents located in the Kenai Peninsula Borough, about 65 air miles and 155 highway miles southwest of Anchorage. The area encompasses 29.9 square miles of land and 5.6 miles of water. Kenai is the largest community on the Kenai Peninsula and is the hub of the region's oil and gas, commercial and sport fishing, and tourism industries.

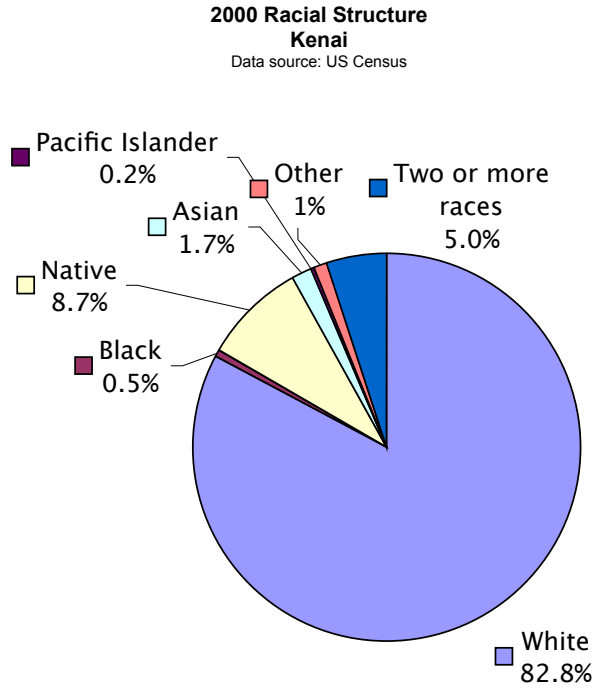
Demographic Profile

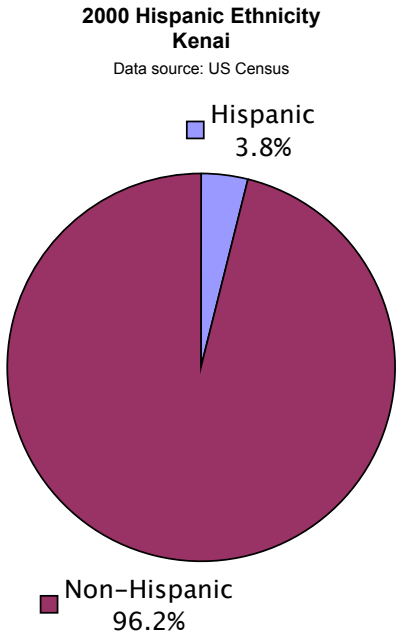
The vast majority of the 6,942 Kenai residents (99.7%) live in households rather than group quarters. The gender composition in the community is relatively equal, at 49.4% male and 50.6% female. The racial makeup is as follows: White (82.8%), Alaska Native or American Indian (8.7%), Black (0.5%), Asian (1.7%), Hawaiian Native (0.2%), other (1.1%), two or more races (5.0%). A total of 12.1% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. In addition, 3.8% of residents were of Hispanic ethnicity. The median age of Kenai residents is 32.3 years, slightly younger than the U.S. national median of 35.3 years. Along with the discovery of oil near Kenai and offshore in Cook Inlet in the 1950s and 1960s, the population has boomed in recent decades. There was a four-fold increase in population between 1960 and 1970 alone.

History

Kenai has been the site of a Dena'ina Athabascan village since prehistory. When Russian fur traders arrived in 1741, there were about 1,000 people living in a settlement near the Kenai River. A permanent Russian settlement was established in the late 1700s to support fur and fish trading. Later, in 1869, Kenai was the site of a short-lived U.S. military post. During the early 2oth century, commercial fishing was the primary economic activity. The federal government established at this time an agriculture experimental station in Kenai meant to foster a more permanent land-based settlement (Naske and Slotnick 1987: 88). In 1957, the first major Alaska oil strike was made near Kenai, and in 1965 offshore oil was discovered nearby in Cook Inlet. The growth of the oil industry, along with commercial fishing and recreational activities,







combine to make Kenai one of the fastest growing communities in contemporary Alaska.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Kenai is relatively diverse. Residents are employed in the oil and gas industry, commercial and sport fishing, fish processing, agriculture, and timber harvesting. Tourism for both in-state and out-of-state visitors is an increasingly important part of Kenai's economy.

In 2000, the average per capita income was $20,789, and the average household income was $45,962. Approximately 8.2% of the total potential labor force was unemployed, and 34% of residents aged 16 years and older were not in the labor force (i.e. not employed and not seeking work). Approximately 9.8% of residents lived below the poverty level.

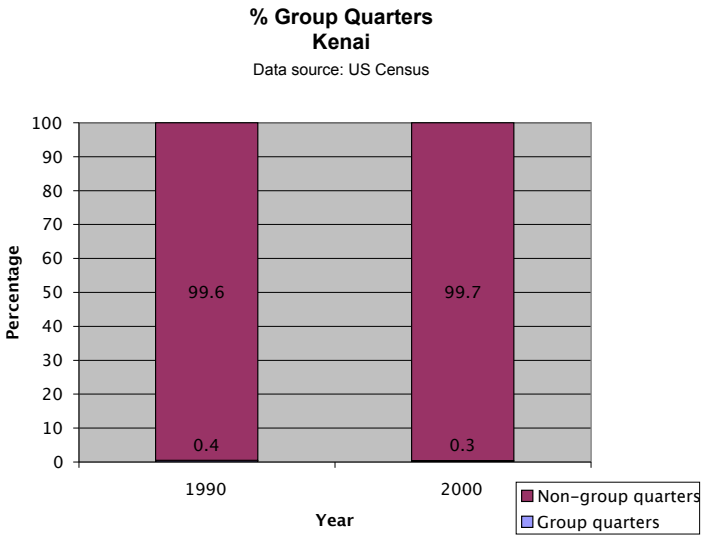
Governance

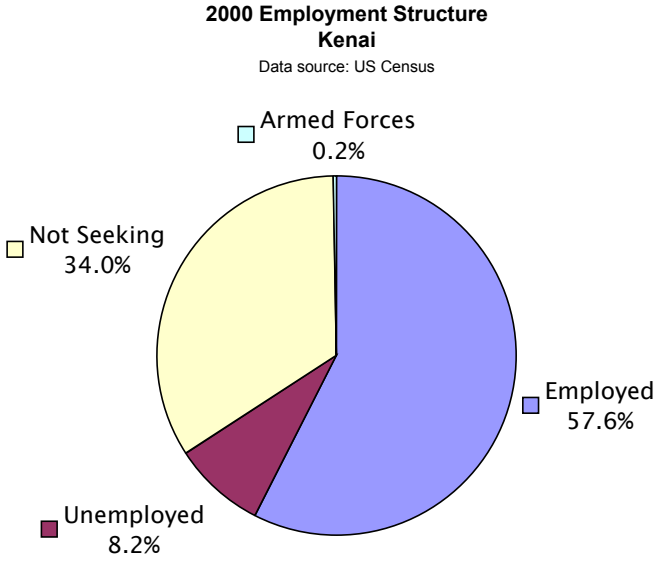
Kenai was incorporated as a first-class city in 1960 and has a city manager form of government. It is in the Kenai Peninsula Borough. In terms of Native governance, there is the village council (the Kenaitze Indian Tribe) and the Kenai Natives Association. Government revenues come from a 3% sales tax administered by the city and a 2% sales tax administered by the borough. There is also a 0.4% (or 4.0 mill) property tax administered by the city and a 0.65% (or 6.5 mill) property tax administered by the borough. There is an office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) located directly in Kenai. The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) office and Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office are both located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Utilities are provided primarily by the city and include piped water, sewage, and garbage collection. Electricity is provided by the Homer Electric Association, which uses both hydroelectric and gas turbines. The Dena'ina Health Clinic is operated by the village council. Police services are provided by the city, and fire/rescue services are provided by the borough.

Kenai is accessible both by air and by road via the Sterling Highway. Roundtrip airfare from Kenai to





Anchorage costs approximately $134.

There are two elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school located in Kenai, all of which are operated by the borough. There are a total of 107 teachers and 1,559 students.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing*

Commercial fishing is a major part of the local economy in Kenai. The Cook Inlet salmon fishery accounts for the most significant portion of commercial fishing activities for Kenai residents. In 2000, there were 18 vessel owners with operations in federal fisheries and 75 vessel owners with operations

* Commercial fishing permit data from the CFEC is given for the communities of Kenai and Nikishka

in state fisheries who resided in Kenai. There were 271 registered crew members. In 2000, there were 235 residents who held a total of 317 commercial fishing permits. The following section contains detailed information about commercial permits issued to Kenai residents in 2000.

Crab: Three residents held a total of four permits in the crab fishery, and three of these were fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits was as follows: one Dungeness crab pot gear permit for vessels over 60 feet in Cook Inlet (none fished), one King crab pot gear permit for vessels over 60 feet in Bristol Bay (one fished), and two Tanner crab pot gear permits for vessels over 60 feet in the Bering Sea (two fished).

Other Shellfish: Four residents held a total of six permits for other shellfish, and four of these permits were fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: one shrimp beam trawl permit for Prince William Sound (one fished), one shrimp beam trawl permit for the Westward region of the Alaska Peninsula (one fished), three clam shovel permits for statewide waters (one fished), and one scallop dredge permit for statewide waters (one fished);

Halibut: Forty-nine residents held a total of 52 permits in the halibut fishery, and 33 of these were fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: 4 halibut hand troll permits for statewide waters (one fished), 32 halibut longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (20 fished), one halibut mechanical jig permit for vessels in statewide waters (none fished), and 15 halibut longline permits for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (12 fished).

Herring: Fourteen residents held a total of 20 permits in the herring fishery, but only one permit was fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: 2 herring roe purse seine permits for Prince William Sound (none fished), 3 herring roe purse seine permits for Cook Inlet (none fished), 3 herring roe purse seine permits for Bristol Bay (none fished), 2 herring roe gillnet permits for Cook Inlet (none fished), 5 herring roe gillnet permits for the Kodiak fishery (none fished), one herring roe gillnet permit for Security Cove (none fished), one herring roe gillnet permit for Bristol Bay (one fished), 2 herring roe gillnet permits for Norton Sound (none fished), and one herring permit to collect eggs in kelp fields in Prince William Sound (none fished).

Sablefish: Three residents held a total of four permits in the sablefish fishery, but only one of these permits was fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: one sablefish mechanical jig permit for statewide waters (none fished), one sablefish fixed gear permit for vessels under 50 feet in length in Prince William Sound (one fished), one sablefish longline permit for vessels over 60 feet in the northern southeast region (none fished), and one sablefish longline permit for vessels over 60 feet in the southern southeast region (none fished).

Other Groundfish: Seventeen residents held a total of 22 permits for the groundfish fishery, and 11 of these were actually fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: one lingcod longline permit for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (one fished), one lingcod mechanical jig permit for statewide waters (none fished), five miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (none fished), 3 miscellaneous salt water finfish pot gear permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (3 fished),7 seven miscellaneous salt water finfish mechanical jig permits for statewide waters (4 fished), 3 snail pot gear permits for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (3 fished), one miscellaneous saltwater finfish for vessels using other gear in statewide waters (none fished), and one demersal shelf rockfish hand troll permit for the southeast region (none fished).

Salmon: Commercial salmon fishing, particularly in the Cook Inlet fishery is very important in Kenai. In 2000, 208 residents held a total of 209 permits, and 156 permits were fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: one salmon purse seine permit for the southeast region (one fished), 2 salmon purse seine permits for Prince William Sound (none fished), 2 salmon purse seine permits for the Kodiak fishery (2 fished), one salmon purse seine permits for the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands (one fished), 2 salmon drift gillnet permits for Prince William Sound (one fished), 66 salmon drift gillnet permits for Cook Inlet (61 fished), one salmon drift gillnet permit for the Alaska Peninsula (one fished), eight salmon drift gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (7 fished), 112 salmon set gillnet permits for Cook Inlet (70 fished), 12 salmon set gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (12 fished), one salmon set gillnet permit for Kuskokwim (none fished), and one salmon hand troll permit for statewide waters (none fished).

Kenai is also an important hub for commercial fish processing. In 2000 there were 6 processing plants with a combined total of 906 tons in landings for federally managed species and 4,269.3 tons in landings for state-managed species. The salmon fishery accounted for the vast majority of landings.

In 2002, the Kenai Peninsula Borough received $810 in federal funds to compensate for fisheries losses due to Steller sea lion habitat protection under the Endangered Species Act. In 2003, Kenai received $155,035 in federal salmon disaster funds to compensate the community for falling salmon prices. The Kenai Peninsula Borough as a whole received $623,295 in salmon disaster funds.

Sport Fishing

The sport fishing industry in Kenai is very large, accounting for a major portion of local economic activity. The area is a major destination for sport fishermen around the world who come to fish in Cook Inlet as well in the Kenai River, the most heavily fished river in Alaska The Major sport fish species include halibut, chinook, silver, pink and sockeye salmon, rainbow trout, steelhead, and Dolly Varden. The largest recorded king salmon taken by rod and reel, weighing 97 pounds 4 ounces, was landed from the Kenai River.

In 2000, a total of 9,350 sport licenses were sold in Kenai—4,263 to Alaska residents and 5,087 to non-residents. The sport fishing guide industry is very strong in Kenai, with 20 saltwater and 35 freshwater guides registered in 2002.

Subsistence Fishing

The ADF&G's Division of Subsistence reported in 1993 that 98% of Kenai households used at least some subsistence resources. Approximately 95% of households used fish for subsistence, including salmon and non-salmon species. Approximately 54.5% of households used marine invertebrates for subsistence, and a small portion of households (1%) used marine mammals. A total of 107 in Kenai held subsistence salmon harvesting permits in 1999. The member of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe in Kenai who hold a valid Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC) issued by NMFS, are eligible to harvest subsistence halibut. These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.

The annual per capita harvest of subsistence foods for Kenai in 1993 was 83.8 lbs, and was comprised of the following resources: salmon (46.2%), non-salmon fish (19.5%), land mammals (20.2%), marine mammals (0.7%), birds and bird eggs (1.1%), marine invertebrates (6.1%), and vegetation (6.2%).

Nikiski (return to communities)

People and Place

Location

The community of Nikiski is located 9 miles north of the City of Kenai on the Kenai Peninsula on the Sterling Highway. Nikiski is also known as Port Nikiski and Nikishka and is located in the Kenai Recording District. It is made up of 69.6 square miles of land and 6.6 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

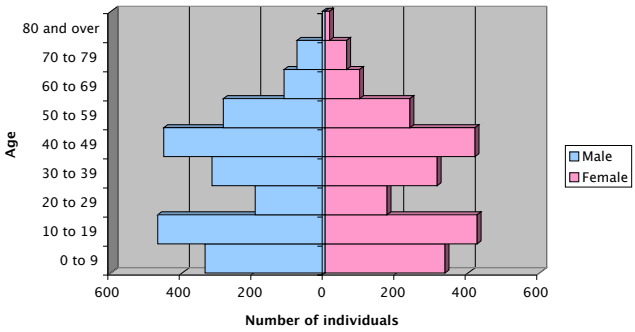
Nikiski had a total population of 4,327 in 2000. The gender composition in the community was 52.2% male and 47.8% female. Since 1980, the population has increased from 1,109 inhabitants to 4,409 in 2002, as established by a State Demographer. At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census the racial makeup was: 87.2% White, 0.1% Black, 7.6% American Indian and Alaska Native, 0.7% Asian, 0.5% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, 0.8% other, and 3.1% two or more races. A total of 10.1% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian.

About 1.3% of the population was of Hispanic. The median age in the community in 2000 was 34.2 years old, compared to the national average of 35.3 years. About 33.5% of the population was under the age of 18. There were a total of 1,766 housing units in the community and of those 252 were vacant with 93 having been vacant due to seasonal use. No one lived in group quarters. About 88.5% of the population age 25 years and over had graduated from high school and gone on to further schooling, 16.8% had obtained a bachelor's degree, and 4.3% had a graduate or professional degree.

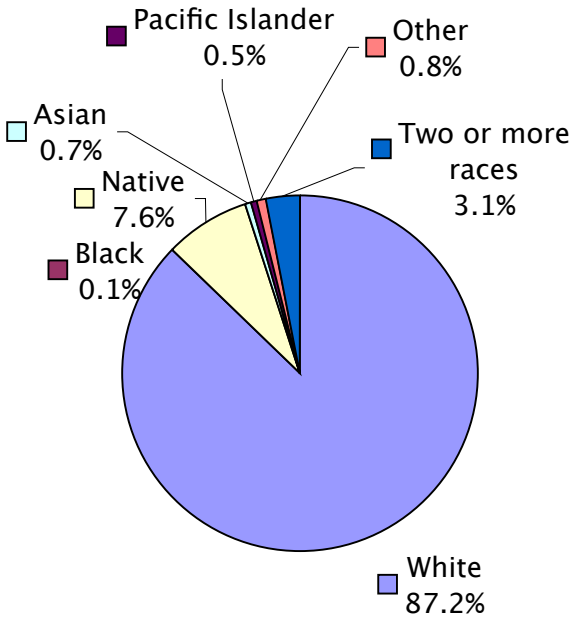
History

The area of Nikiski was historically in Kenaitze Indian territory. For the most part Athabascan Indian groups live in interior Alaska, and Eskimo and Aleut groups live in the coastal areas; the Kenaitze Indians are the exception. The Kenaitze Indians were Dena'ina Athabascan people who replaced the Kachemak people in around 1000 A.D. (VisitKenai.com 2003). The Native people of the area were called Kenaitze by the Russians which meant 'the people who live along the Kenai River', although "the Kenaitze, however, called themselves Kahthuht'ana, an Athabascan word

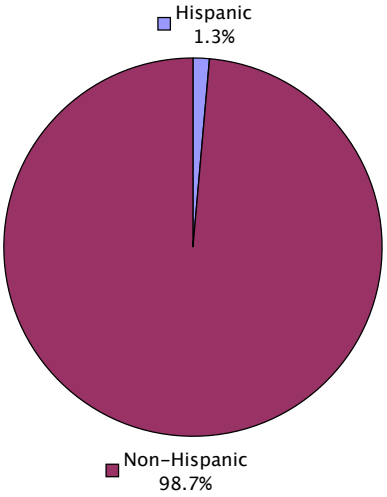
2000 Population Structure
Nikiski
Data source: US Census



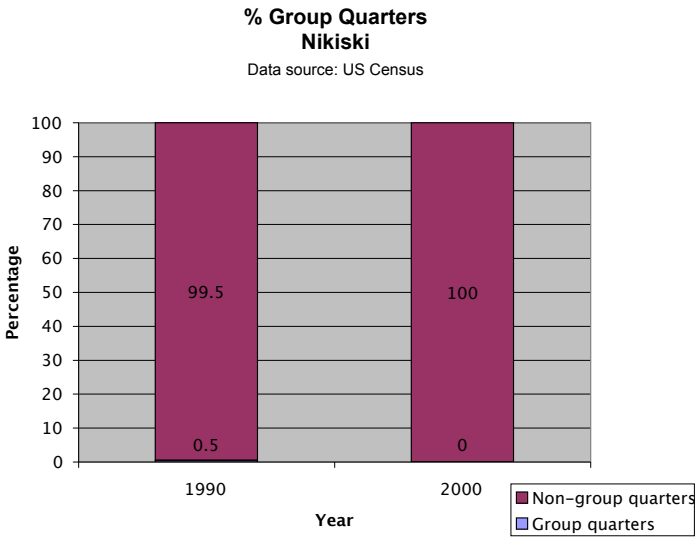
2000 Racial Structure
Nikiski
Data source: US Census

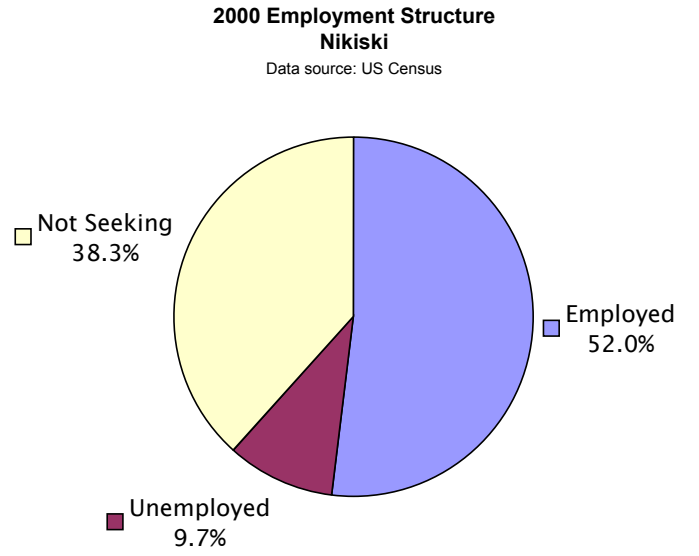


2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Nikiski
Data source: US Census



meaning 'the people of the Kenai'" (Halliday 1998, p.182). Between 1786 and 1791 Russian fur traders came to the Kenai area and established settlements. Around 1795 Russian Orthodoxy was introduced into the area by Father Juvenaly. In 1838, there was a smallpox epidemic and approximately 50% of the Dena'ina people died from the disease. The Native population was hit again in the years 1918 to 1920 during the worldwide influenza epidemic. The first cannery in Kenai was built in 1888 by the Northern Packing Company. In 1923 the Alaska Railroad was finished and in 1937 construction was started on the Kenai airport. The area of Nikiski was homesteaded in the 1940's. Construction began on the Sterling Highway in 1947, was finished in 1951, and was paved in 1954 which provided greater access to the area. The region grew with the discovery of oil on the Kenai Peninsula in 1957. Oil-related industries had located to the area by 1964 including Tesoro, Chevron, Phillips 66, and Unocal. A fire department was organized for Nikiski beginning the 1960's and has since "developed one of the best and most aggressive training programs in petroleum firefighting you can find anywhere in the states" (Nikiski Fire Department 2003).





Infrastructure

Current Economy

Nikiski is the most industrial area on the Kenai Peninsula because the oil industry is so important to the economy of the community. It is the site of a Tesoro oil refinery where crude oil from Cook Inlet (and some from the North Slope) is processed into diesel, gasoline, and jet fuel. A BP natural gas to liquid fuel pilot plant has also been constructed in the area. Natchiq, Inc. and Alaska Petroleum Contractors are building portable modules which will be shipped to the Alpine oil field in the North Slope for oil service work and are being constructed in Nikiski. Five hundred residents are employed at Agrium, Inc.'s fertilizer plant which produces 600,000 tons of ammonia and 1 million tons of urea yearly. The Captain Cook Recreation Area is located about 10 miles outside of the community, drawing visitors to the area. Employment is also provided by the timber industry, retail, government, tourism-related services, and commercial and sport fishing. There were a total of 71 commercial fishing permits issued to residents of Nikiski in 2000 and 93 licensed crew members lived in the community. Subsistence activities do seem to be present to a certain degree in the community, although there is little data available. Of those age 16 and over about 52.0% were employed, 9.7% were unemployed, and 38.3% were not in the labor force. Of those employed, approximately 24.0% were classified as being in construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations. The per capita income in the community was $20,129, and the median household income was $51,176. About 11.4% of the population lived below the poverty level at the time of the 2000 U.S. Census.

Governance

Nikiski is unincorporated; therefore, no city or borough officials or employees live in the community. Nikiski is included in part of the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the North Peninsula Chamber of Commerce is present. There is neither a regional Native corporation, nor any Native village corporation

for the community. Nikiski was not included as part of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and is not federally recognized as a Native village. The nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office is located in Soldotna, which is also on the Kenai Peninsula, whereas the closest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration (BCIS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) offices are located in Anchorage. There is also a NMFS office in Homer as well.

Facilities

Nikiski is accessible by land with the Sterling Highway providing access to Anchorage, and roads linking the community to Kenai where airport and docking facilities are available. The approximate cost to fly to Kenai from Anchorage roundtrip was $114 according to Travelocity and Expedia (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible). Two private airstrips are present in the area, one owned by the Shell Oil Company. Offshore drilling platforms are serviced by the Port Nikiski docks. Accommodations are available at Lynn's Inn B&B, Moose Haven Lodge, Daniel's Lake Lodge, Bishop Creek Campground, and Discovery Campground. There are three schools in the community; Nikiski Elementary, North Star Elementary, and Nikiski Middle/Senior High School which had a collective enrollment of 967 students taught by 58 teachers in 2000. There is no health care available directly in the community, but a hospital is located in Soldotna and emergency care can be obtained from the Nikiski Fire Department. There are also no police in the community. The electric utility is the Homer Electric Association, operated by REA Co-op with the main power sources of hydroelectric and natural gas. Most of the houses in Nikiski use individual water wells and septic tanks as no public sewer system or piped water systems are available. Refuse is collected by Peninsula Sanitation and is operated by the Borough transfer facility and Unocal Oil.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing*

Nikiski saw a total of 71 commercial fishing permits issued to its residents in 2000, and 93 licensed crew members lived in the area. There were 5 vessel owners participating in commercial federal fisheries, and 15 vessel owners participating in the commercial salmon fishery.

Out of the 71 commercial fishing permits issued to Nikiski residents, 51 were fished. There were 11 permits issued for halibut: 6 were issued for halibut using longline on a vessel under 60 feet statewide (2 fished), two using a mechanical jig statewide (one fished), and 3 using longline on a vessel over 60 feet statewide (3 fished). Five permits were issued to Nikiski residents for herring: two for herring roe using gillnets in Cook Inlet (none fished) and three for herring roe using gillnets in Kodiak (none fished). Five permits were issued for other groundfish, one for lingcod using a mechanical jig statewide (none fished), one for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using a hand troll statewide (none fished), one for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using pot gear on a vessel under 60 feet statewide (none fished), and two for miscellaneous saltwater finfish using a mechanical jig statewide (two fished). A total of 50 salmon permits were issued of which 43 were fished: one was issued for salmon using a purse seine in Prince William Sound (none fished), 2 using drift gillnets in Prince William Sound (2 fished), 13 using drift gillnets in Cook Inlet (14 fished), one using a drift gillnet in Bristol Bay (one fished), 29 using set gillnets in Cook Inlet (22 fished), 2 using set gillnets in Kodiak (2 fished), and 2 using set gillnets in Bristol Bay (2 fished).

No vessels delivered landings to Nikiski in 2000, since there were no processors located in the community. Landings are most likely delivered to nearby Kenai which has processors for a variety of species. The community of Nikiski was not allotted any federal salmon disaster funds, although the Kenai Peninsula Borough was allotted $623,295. The Kenai Peninsula Borough was also recently granted $810 by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference as part of the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Program "in recognition of the negative economic impacts of federal measures to protect the Steller sea lion" with money which had been allocated by the U.S. government (Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference 2003).

Sport Fishing

There are quite a few sport fishing related businesses present in the community of Nikiski. In 2002, there were 10 freshwater guide business listings according to ADF&G, 4 aircraft/fly-in services listings, 4 drop-off services listings, and 7 full service guide listings. There were 20 sport fishing licenses sold in

Nikiski to residents of the state of Alaska, and a total of 274 sold to non-residents.

Subsistence Fishing

Nikiski is considered a Federal non-rural area, meaning the residents of the community are not eligible to harvest subsistence resources on Federal land (of which 60% of the land in the state of Alaska is designated). In order to have the right to harvest subsistence wildlife, fish, and shellfish on Federal land, a status of "rural" must be granted. Rural status had been temporarily granted to all communities in the Kenai in 2000 as requested by the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, although this decision has been overturned and currently only certain Kenai communities are given the designation of rural. Nikiski is not one of them, and therefore, not eligible to harvest subsistence on Federal lands. Residents of Nikiski are eligible to harvest on State lands because the State considers all the communities of Alaska as rural. Most likely, some form of subsistence is occurring in the city, although there is no information (except for salmon) available from the ADF&G because of this Federal non-rural designation. According to the ADF&G there was one salmon household subsistence permit issued to a resident of Nikiski in 1999 for an estimated total harvest of 66 fish. It does not appear that residents of the community are eligible to apply for halibut subsistence certificates.

Nikolaevsk (return to communities)

People and Place

Location

Nikolaevsk is located on the Kenai Peninsula, inland from Anchor Point and approximately 15 miles from Homer. The area encompasses 36.3 square miles of land.

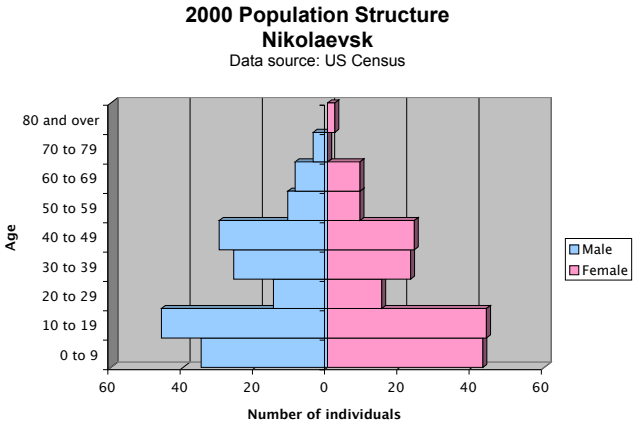
Demographic Profile

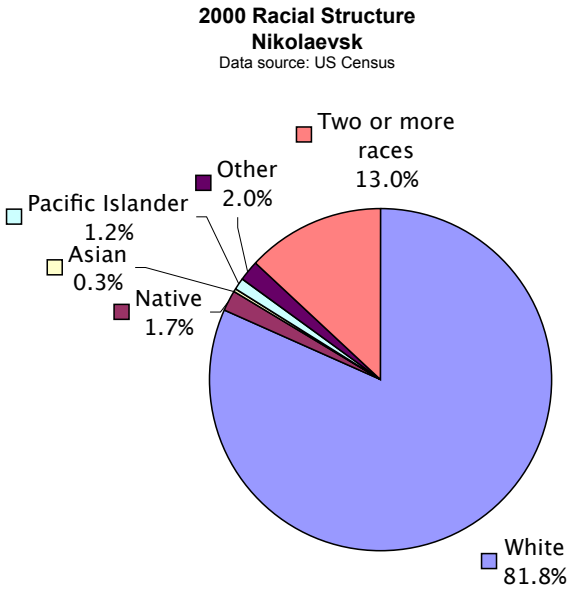
In 2000, Nikolaevsk was a community of 345 residents in 96 households. Most community members are of Russian ancestry. The racial composition of the community was as follows: White (81.7%), American Indian and Alaska Native (1.7%), Asian (0.3%), Hawaiian Native (1.2%), two or more races (13%), and other (2.0%). A total of 4.9% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. In addition, 0.3% of residents were of Hispanic ethnicity. The gender makeup of the community was relatively equal, at 51% male and 49% female. The age median in the community was a young 20.9 years, whereas the national age median was 35.3 years. Approximately 63.9% of residents aged 25 years or older had a high school diploma or higher level of educational attainment.

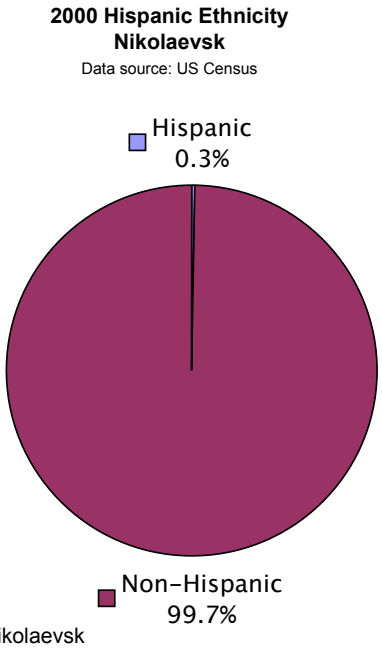
The most striking feature of Nikolaevsk is its Russian influence. About 67.5% of the local population report having Russian ancestry; a similarly high percentage report speaking Russian at home. Nikolaevsk is a relatively stable community with little in- or out-migration.

History

Nikolaevsk got its name from St. Nicholas, the patron saint of the local Russian Orthodox Church. The town's first settlers came from Woodburn, Oregon, where they lived after being expelled from Russia following the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. After receiving a grant from the Tolstoy Foundation in New York, the settlers bought land on the Kenai Peninsula in 1967 and settled in Nikolaevsk. Today the town maintains a traditional Russian Orthodox atmosphere. There are three distinct settlements within the town boundaries: Russian Orthodox, Russian Old Believers, and some non-Russians.







Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Nikolaevsk is relatively diverse. Commercial and subsistence fishing are both important sources of income in the community. In addition, because of its location on the Kenai Peninsula, near the larger towns of Anchor Point and Homer, many Nikolaevsk residents work outside the community.

The median per capita income in Nikolaevsk for 2000 was $10,390, and the median household income was $37,500. Approximately 12.5% of the local labor force was unemployed, and 46.8% of residents aged 16 and older were not in the labor force (i.e. not employed and not seeking work). Approximately 19.2% of residents lived below the poverty level.

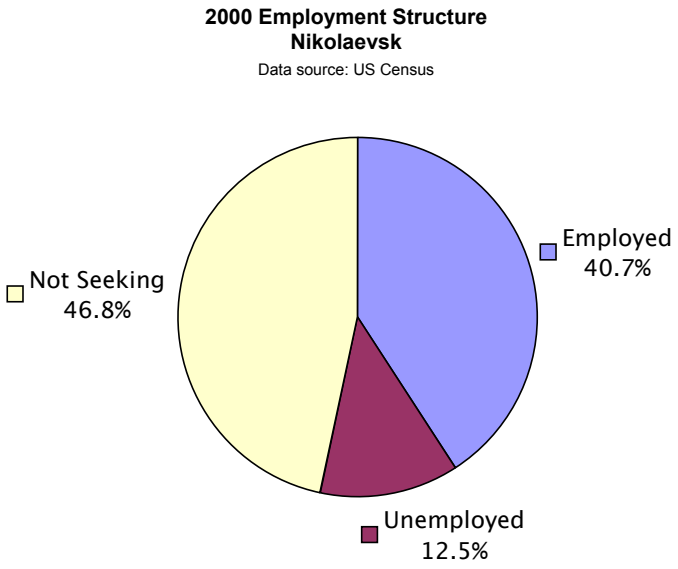
Governance

Nikolaevsk is an unincorporated city under the jurisdiction of the Kenai Peninsula Borough. It is governed by a community council. In addition, there is a community non-profit organization, the Nikolaevsk Community Council, Inc. The borough administers a 2% sales tax and a 0.65% (6.5 mills) property tax. There is an office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) located nearby in Homer. The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) office and Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office are both located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Nikolaevsk is accessible via the Sterling Highway, which runs from Anchorage to Homer. There is an airport in Homer, approximately 15 miles away. Roundtrip airfare from Homer to Anchorage is about $175. There is a piped water system in the community, and all homes have indoor plumbing. Most homes have individual septic tanks. Electricity is delivered to Nikolaevsk by the Homer Electric Association; power is produced by a hydroelectric station and by natural gas. Fire and emergency medical services are provided by the city of Anchor Point. The nearest health clinic is the South Peninsula Hospital in Homer.

There is one school in the community, offering instruction to students from K-12. There are 7 teachers and 100 students.



Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing, particularly in the salmon and halibut fisheries, is an important part of Nikolaevsk's economy. In 2000, there were 5 vessel owners with operations in federal fisheries and 10 vessel owners with operations in state fisheries who resided in the community. There were 44 registered crew members. Seventeen local residents held a total of 31 commercial fishing permits. This section contains a detailed description of commercial permits issued to Nikolaevsk residents in 2000.

Halibut: Ten local residents held a total of 10 permits in the halibut fishery, including: 7 halibut longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (6 fished), and 3 halibut longline permits for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (2 fished).

Sablefish: Five local residents held a total of five permits in the sablefish fishery, including: 4 sablefish longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (3 fished), and one sablefish longline permit for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (one fished).

Other Groundfish: Five local residents held a total of six permits in the groundfish fishery, including: four miscellaneous saltwater finfish hand troll permits for statewide waters (four were actually fished), one miscellaneous saltwater finfish mechanical jig permit for statewide waters (none fished), and one

miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline permit for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (none fished).

Salmon: Ten local residents held a total of 10 permits in the salmon fishery. These permits included the following: two salmon drift gillnet permits for Prince William Sound (two fished), five salmon drift gillnet permits for Cook Inlet (four fished), one salmon drift gillnet permit for the Alaska Peninsula (three fished), and two salmon drift gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (two fished).

In 2002, the Kenai Peninsula Borough received $810 in federal funds to compensate for fisheries losses due to Steller sea lion habitat protection under the Endangered Species Act. In 2003, the Kenai Peninsula Borough received $623,295 in salmon disaster funds to compensate for falling salmon prices. It is anticipated that a portion of these sums will be used for programs that affect Nikolaevsk.

Sport Fishing

The ADF&G does not have detailed information about sport fishing activities in Nikolaevsk.

Subsistence Fishing

Although located on the populous Kenai Peninsula, Nikolaevsk is designated as rural for subsistence standards. The ADF&G's Division of Subsistence reports that, in 1998, 100% of households in Nikolaevsk used subsistence resources. Approximately 97.3% of households used subsistence salmon (including all five Pacific species), and 94.6% used non-salmon subsistence fish (especially cod, halibut, greenling, and rockfish). Approximately 29.7% of households used marine invertebrates (especially crabs) for subsistence. Marine mammals were not used.

The annual per capita harvest of subsistence foods for Nikolaevsk in 1998 was 133 pounds, and was comprised of the following resources: salmon (50.3%), non-salmon fish (25.1%), land mammals (16.9%), marine invertebrates (2.9%), and vegetation (4.9%).

Ninilchik (return to communities)

People and Place

Location

Ninilchik is located on the Kenai Peninsula, approximately 38 miles south of Kenai and 30 miles north of Homer, on the Sterling Highway. The area encompasses 207.6 square miles of land and 0.1 square miles of water.

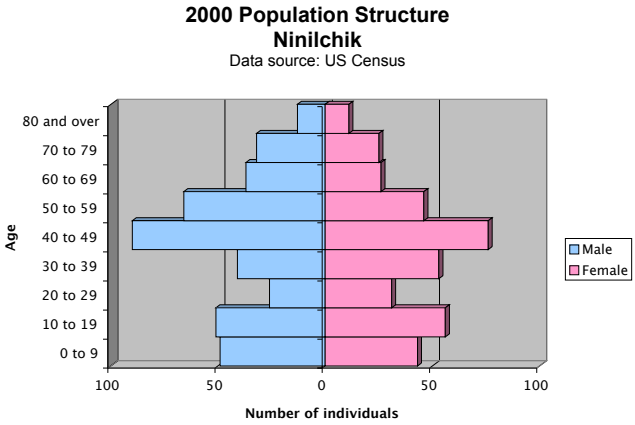
Demographic Profile

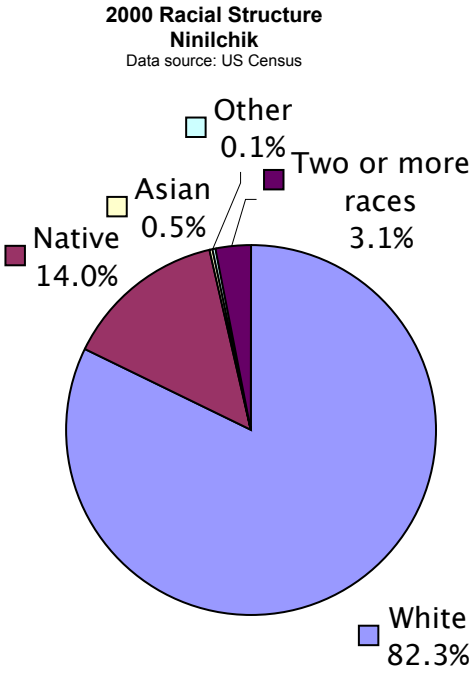
In 2000, there were 772 residents in 320 households. The racial composition of the community was as follows: White (82.3%), American Indian and Alaska Native (14.0%), Asian (0.5%), other (0.1%) and two or more races (3.1%). A total of 16.6% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. In addition, 0.6% of residents were of Hispanic ethnicity. The gender makeup of the community was slightly skewed, at 52.5% male and 47.5% female. The median age was 42.5 years, significantly older than the U.S. national average of 35.3 years. Approximately 79% of residents aged 25 years or older had a high school degree or higher level of educational attainment.

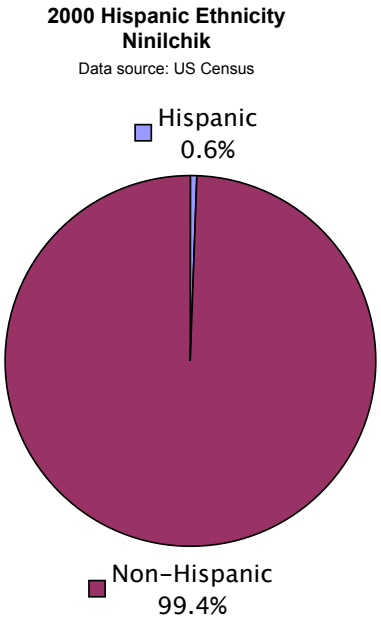
History

The Kenai Peninsula is historically considered to be Dena'ina Athabascan Indian territory, although archaeological sites on Kachemak Bay suggest the presence of Pacific Eskimo or Alutiiq people as early as 4,500 years ago (Halliday 1998: 183). The Dena'ina word "Niqnikchint" means "lodge by the river." In the 1820s, the Russian-American Fur Company established a permanent settlement in present-day Ninilchik as a place for disabled and sick employees who could not return to Russia.

Nine families originally settled Ninilchik, all of whom were descendants of Grigorii Kvasnikoff, a Russian Orthodox missionary from Moscow, and Mavra Kvasnikoff, a Russian-Sugpiaq from Kodiak. In 1846, the early founders built the Transfiguration of Our Lord Russian Orthodox Church; this church, the most recognizable feature of Ninilchik, was constructed on its present site in 1901. By the 1940s, homesteaders began settling in the community, and today Ninilchik is comprised of many ethnicities.





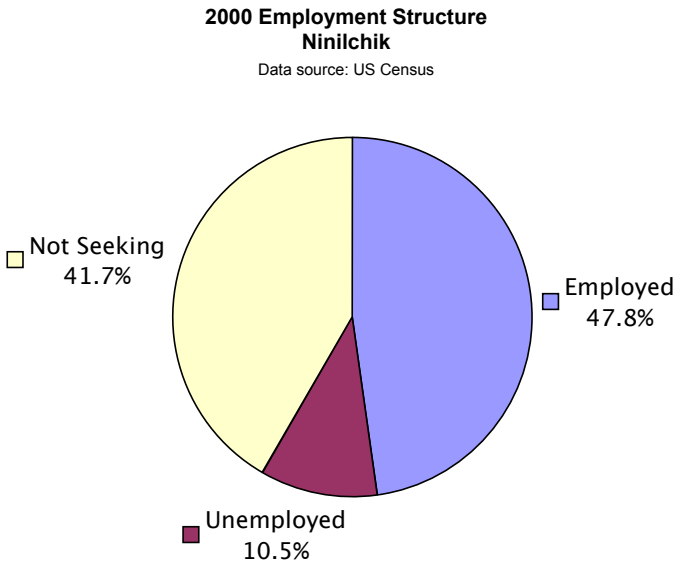


Infrastructure

Current Economy

The local economy revolves around fishing, including commercial, sport, and subsistence. Many residents hold commercial fishing permits. Sport fishing guide services, especially during the summer season, constitute another important source of local employment.

In 2000, the median per capita income was $18,463 and the median household income was $36,250. Unemployment was 10.5%, and 41.7% of residents aged 16 and older were not in the labor force (i.e. not working and not seeking work). The poverty rate was 13.9%.



Governance

Ninilchik is unincorporated. It is governed by a traditional village council, which is recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). It is under the jurisdiction of the Kenai Peninsula Borough. The nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) office are about 30 miles away in Homer. The nearest Bureau of Immigration and Citizenship Services (BCIS) office is in Anchorage.

Facilities

Ninilchik is accessible by road via the Sterling Highway. The nearby Kenai airport provides access to communities throughout Alaska. Roundtrip airfare from Kenai to Anchorage is $134. Most homes use individual water wells and septic tanks. Studies are currently underway to determine the feasibility of installing a community-wide water and sewer system. Electricity is provided by the Homer Electric Association, which uses both hydroelectric and natural gas. The local health clinic is owned and operated by the village council. Police services are provided by the state troopers. There is one school in the community that offers instruction to students from K-12. There are 13 teachers and 186 students.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing operations constitute a major portion of the economy in Ninilchik. Seven vessel owners with operations in federal fisheries and 22 vessel owners with operations in state fisheries resided in the community in 2000. There were 58 registered crew members. Forty-nine local residents held a total of 68 commercial fishing permits, predominantly in the salmon and halibut fisheries. This section contains a detailed description of commercial permits issued to Ninilchik residents in 2000.

Crab: Two local residents held a total of two Dungeness crab pot gear permits for vessels over 60 feet in Cook Inlet (none fished).

Halibut: Nine residents held a total of 10 commercial permits in the halibut fishery, including: 6 halibut longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (4 fished), one halibut mechanical jig permit for statewide waters (one fished, and 3 halibut longline permits for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (3 fished).

Herring: Five residents held a total of five permits in the herring fishery, including: four herring roe gillnet permits for Cook Inlet (two fished), and one herring roe gillnet permit for Norton Sound (none fished).

Other Groundfish: Four residents held a total of eight permits in the groundfish fishery, including the following: two lingcod mechanical jig permits for statewide waters (none fished), two miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (one fished), two miscellaneous saltwater finfish pot gear permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (one fished), and two miscellaneous saltwater finfish mechanical jig permit for statewide waters (one fished).

Salmon: Forty-two local residents held a total of

43 commercial permits in the salmon fishery. These permits included the following: one salmon purse seine permit for Prince William Sound (none fished), 2 salmon purse seine permits for Cook Inlet (one fished), 2 salmon purse seine permits for Kodiak (3 fished), 2 salmon drift gillnet permits for the Southeast region (2 fished), 2 salmon drift gillnet permits for Prince William Sound (3 fished), 11 salmon drift gillnet permits for Cook Inlet (9 fished),one salmon drift gillnet permit for Bristol Bay (one fished), 21 salmon set gillnet permits for Cook Inlet (14 fished), and one salmon set gillnet permit for Bristol Bay (one fished).

In 2000, there was one commercial fish processing plant located in Ninilchik. In accordance with confidentiality regulations, data for fish landings in Ninilchik is unavailable. In 2002, the Kenai Peninsula Borough received $810 in federal funds to compensate for fisheries losses due to Steller sea lion habitat protection under the Endangered Species Act. In addition, the Kenai Peninsula Borough received $623,295 in salmon disaster funds to compensate for falling salmon prices. A portion of these sums will likely be used for projects that affect Ninilchik.

Sport Fishing

Fishermen from Alaska, the lower 48 U.S. states, Canada and elsewhere come to the Kenai Peninsula to fish in Cook Inlet, Kachemak Bay, and nearby rivers. The sport fishing industry in Ninilchik primarily revolves around halibut, but silver, sockeye and pink salmon are also important. Nearby rivers offer fishing for steelhead and Dolly Varden, as well.

In 2000, sport fishing license sales in Ninilchik totaled 5,251—more than six times the total population of the community. Of these, the majority (3,753) were sold to non-Alaskans. There were 41 registered saltwater sport fishing guides and 12 freshwater sport fishing guides in Ninilchik in 2002.

Subsistence Fishing

The ADF&G's Division of Subsistence reports that, in 1998, 99% of households in Ninilchik used subsistence resources. Approximately 90.1% of households used subsistence salmon (including all five Pacific species), and 92.1% used non-salmon subsistence fish (especially cod, halibut, greenling, rockfish and char). Only 2% of households used marine mammals for subsistence, but 78.2% used marine invertebrates (especially crabs, clams, and mussels).

The annual per capita harvest of subsistence foods for Ninilchik in 1998 was 163.8 lbs, and was comprised of the following resources: salmon (25.9%), non-salmon fish (23.4%), land mammals (40.4%), marine invertebrates (6.7%), birds and eggs (0.9%), and vegetation (2.7%).

Beginning in 2000, the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council designated non-Native residents of Ninilchik as ineligible to harvest subsistence halibut. Residents have filed an appeal to this decision, and the appeal is still pending.

Port Graham (return to communities)

People and Place

Location

Port Graham is located on the Kenai Peninsula, about 7.5 miles southwest of Seldovia and 28 air miles south of Homer. The area encompasses 5.9 square miles of land.

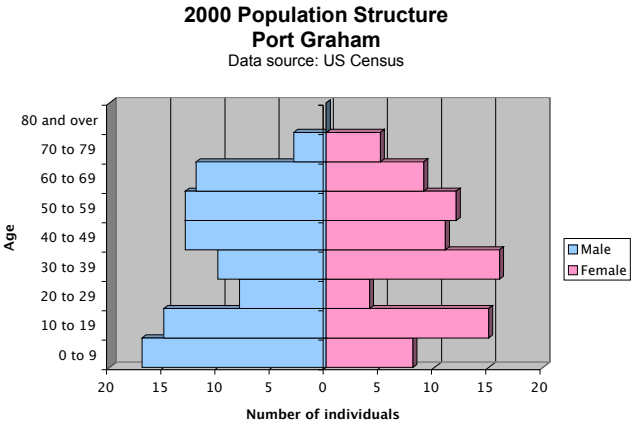
Demographic Profile

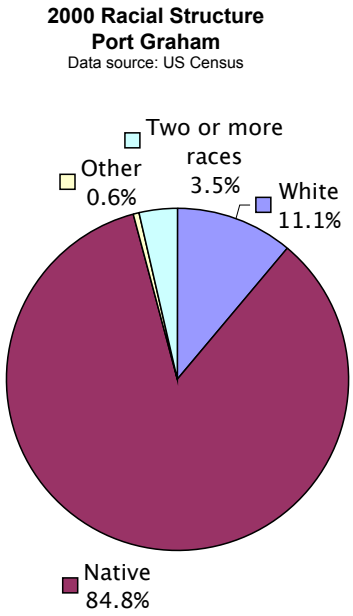
Port Graham is a predominantly Alutiiq, or Sugpiaq, village. In 2000, there were 171 residents in 70 households; all residents lived in family households rather than group quarters. The racial composition of the community was as follows: American Indian and Alaska Native (84.8%), White (11.1%), two or more races (3.5%), and other (0.6%). A total of 88.3% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. In addition, 3.5% of residents are of Hispanic ethnicity. The gender makeup was slightly skewed, at 53.2% male and 46.8% female. The median age in Port Graham was 37.8 years, whereas the national age median was 35.3 years. In terms of educational attainment, approximately 67.5% of residents aged 25 years and older held at least a high school diploma. These demographic characteristics show a relatively stable Native community marked by self-reliance and minimal in- or out-migration.

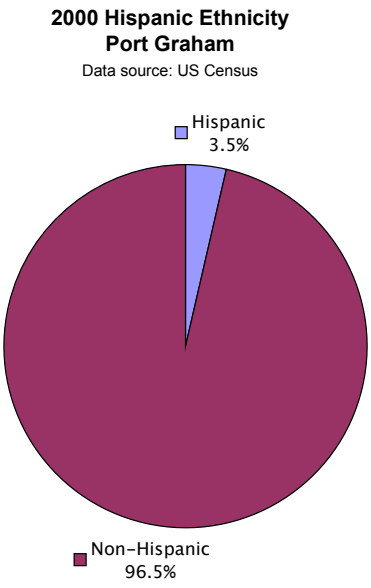
History

The Kenai Peninsula has been inhabited by Dena'ina (Athabascan) Indians for thousands of years. Alutiiq people have also occupied the region since the distant past. The earliest known permanent settlement was established by Russians from the nearby trading post at Nanwalek, about seven miles away. The Russian-American company, first concerned with the fur trade, became interested in the rich coal reserves at the current site of Port Graham. By the 1850s, the company had extracted nearly 800 tons of coal, shipping it south to feed the growing gold rush in San Francisco (Alaska Historical Society, Unit 5 1982: 15). The coal mine lasted only a few years before it became economically infeasible and was abandoned.

A fish cannery has been in operation in Port Graham off and on since the early 1900s. Today Port Graham is predominantly a community of Alutiiq people with strong ties both to their Native cultural traditions and to the Russian Orthodox Church.







Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Port Graham is heavily influenced by commercial fishing. Although only a small number of local residents are directly engaged in fishing activities themselves, there is a salmon cannery in the village that is a major source of employment. There is also a pink salmon hatchery that provides fish to the cannery. In addition to the formal economy, all residents of Port Graham depend heavily on subsistence fishing and hunting.

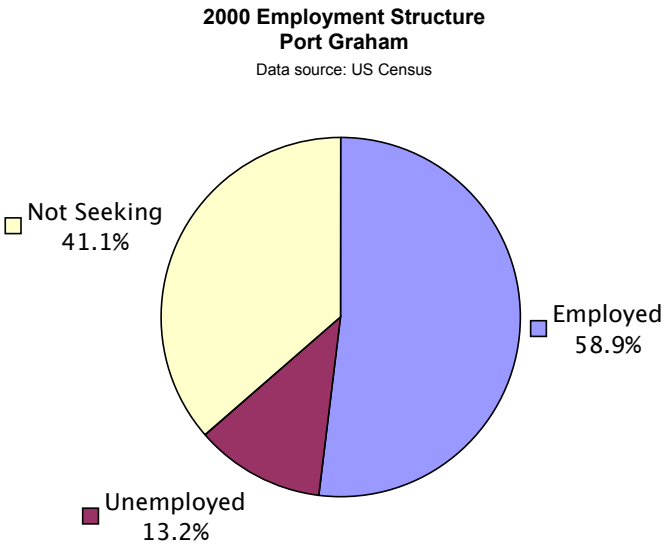
The median per capita income in Port Graham for 2000 was $13,666, and the median household income was $40,250. During that year, 13.2% of the potential labor force was unemployed, and 18.8% of residents lived below the poverty level.

Governance

Port Graham is an unincorporated community governed by a traditional village council and is located within the Kenai Peninsula Borough. The village council is recognized by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs. There is also a local village corporation, which holds a land entitlement under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Port Graham is a member of a regional Native corporation, the Chugach Alaska Corporation. The nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) offices are both located in Homer. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Port Graham is not accessible by road. A state-owned 1,975 foot airstrip is available for local charter flights. Roundtrip airfare to Anchorage, after a short charter flight to Homer, is approximately $175. There are no roads in the community, but a trail connects Port Graham with the nearby village of Nanwalek. There is a piped water and sewer system, operated by the village council. All houses have indoor plumbing. Electricity is provided by the Homer Electric Association and is produced by a hydroelectric facility and natural gas generator. There is a local health clinic operated by the village council. Police services are provided by a village public safety officer. The village has a small port with docking facilities. There is a salmon cannery in the village. There is one school in Port Graham that provides instruction to students from kindergarten through 10th grade. The school has three teachers and 32 students.



Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Despite its relatively small size, Port Graham is significantly involved in North Pacific fisheries. One vessel owner with operations in federal fisheries and six vessel owners with operations in state fisheries resided in the community in 2000. There were 12 registered crew members. There were 12 local residents who held a total of 15 commercial fishing permits; the salmon fishery constituted most of these permits. This section contains a detailed breakdown of commercial permits issued to residents of Port Graham in 2000.

Halibut: Only one local resident held a halibut permit. This was a longline permit for vessels over 60 feet in length in statewide waters. The permit was actually fished.

Herring: Only one local resident held a herring permit. This was a herring roe purse seine permit for the Bristol Bay fishery. The permit was actually fished.

Sablefish: Only one local resident held a permit for sablefish. This was a longline permit for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters. The permit was not actually fished.

Other Groundfish: Only one local resident held a groundfish permit. This was a miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline permit for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters. The permit was not actually fished.

Salmon: Eleven local residents held a total of 11 permits for the salmon fishery. These included the following: one salmon purse seine permit for Prince William Sound (none fished); eight salmon purse seine permits for Cook Inlet (three fished), and two salmon drift gillnet permits for Cook Inlet (none fished). In addition to direct involvement in commercial fisheries, Port Graham has a pink salmon hatchery and cannery. In 2002, the Kenai Peninsula Borough received $810 in federal funds to compensate for fisheries losses due to Steller sea lion habitat protection under the Endangered Species Act. In addition, the Kenai Peninsula Borough as a whole received $623,295 in salmon disaster funds in 2003. A portion of these sums will likely be used for programs that directly affect Port Graham.

Sport Fishing

Sport fishing accounts for a fair percentage of economic activity in Port Graham, although its role is less significant than in other towns on the Kenai Peninsula. Because of its relatively small size and out-of-the-way location far from the sport fishing hubs of Seward and Homer, sport fishing in Port Graham is limited. In 2000, 43 sport licenses were sold in Port Graham, the majority to Alaska residents. In 2002, there were no registered sport fishing guides.

Subsistence Fishing

As a predominantly Alutiiq village, Port Graham relies heavily on subsistence resources. The ADF&G reports that, in 1997, 100% of households in Port Graham used subsistence resources. All households used subsistence salmon (including all five Pacific species), and 93.2% used non-salmon subsistence fish (especially cod, herring, and halibut). Approximately 86.4% of households used marine invertebrates (especially clams, chitin, and octopus) for subsistence, and 81.8% used marine mammals (including seal, sea lion, and sea otter).

The annual per capita harvest of subsistence foods for Port Graham in 1997 was 253.4 pounds, and was comprised of the following resources: salmon (56.9%), non-salmon fish (29.8%), marine mammals (3.7%), marine invertebrates (5.0%), vegetation (3.6%), and land mammals (0.5%).

Seldovia (return to communities)

People and Place

Location

Seldovia is situated on the southern tip of the Kenai Peninsula facing Cook Inlet and across the water from Homer on the south shore of Kachemak Bay. The area encompasses 0.4 square miles of land and 0.2 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

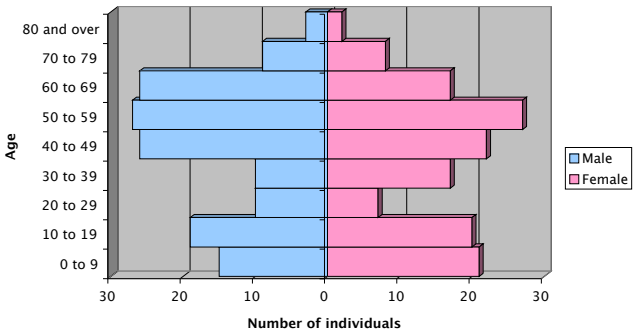
According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of Seldovia was 286 in 2000. Total population numbers increased steadily over the century between 1890, when the population totaled 99, to 1980 when there were 479 residents. Over the last two decades, however, the population has declined to nearly half of its maximum number. Unlike many fishing communities, the genders are in fairly equal balance in Seldovia. The racial composition of the population in 2000 included 73.4% White, 17.5% Alaska Native or American Indian, 1% Black or African American and 0.7% Asian, and 0.3% classified themselves as 'Other'. Overall, 6.6% of the population identified with two or more races. A total of 23.1% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. Only 2.1% of the population identified as Hispanic. The median age was 45.3 years which is quite a bit higher than the national median of 35.3 for the same year. According to census data only 26.7% of the population was under 19 years of age while 32.7% of the population was over 55 years of age in 2000.

There were 232 housing units in Seldovia, 98 of which were vacant in 2000 and of these, 40 were vacant due to seasonal use. At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, none of the population lived in group quarters. About 86.4% of the population had a high school diploma or higher while 21% had a bachelor's degree or higher.

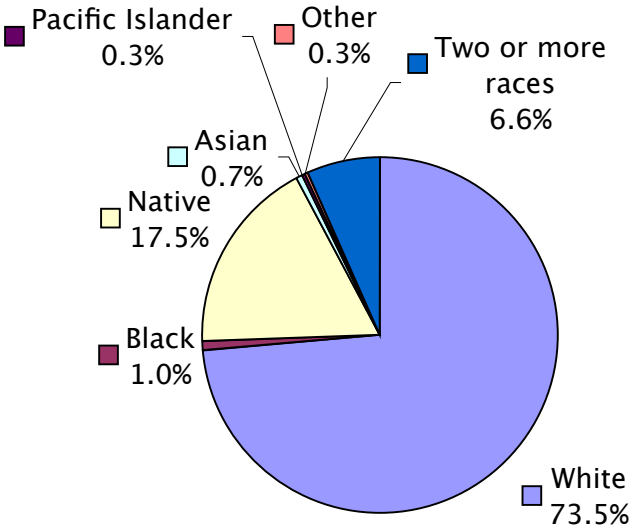
History

The original residents of Seldovia were of Dena'ina Indian and Sugpiaq Eskimo, or Alutiiq. Prehistoric evidence of occupation is suspected to lie beneath the local Russian Orthodox Church and residential homes in the town. Seldovia's modern history began in the late 1800's when Russian explorers came to the

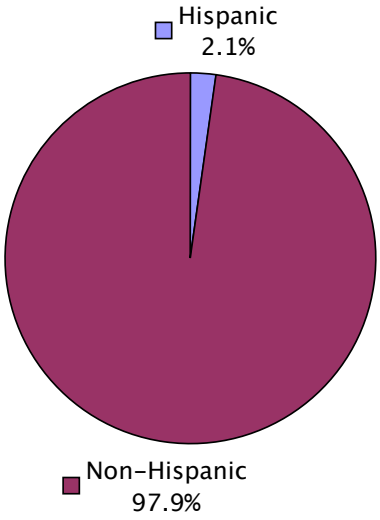
2000 Population Structure
Seldovia
Data source: US Census



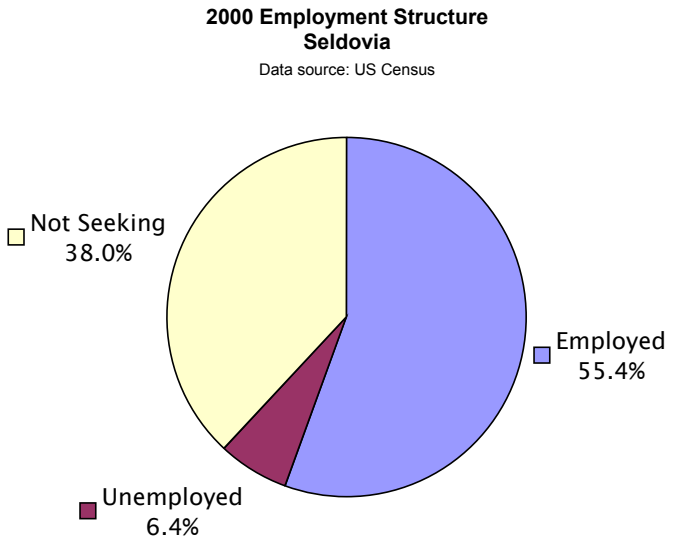
2000 Racial Structure
Seldovia
Data source: US Census



2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Seldovia
Data source: US Census



area. The bay was originally named 'Zaliv Seldevoy,' meaning 'Herring Bay', from which the present name of Seldovia is derived. In the 1870s, Seldovia became a fur hunting and trading and center, making the town one of the oldest in Cook Inlet. In the early 1900's, Seldovia became a stopping off place for prospectors en route to the gold fields in Alaska's interior. In 1910, the first salmon cannery was built and since then processing of salmon, herring and crab have been important to the community, which is ideally located to receive the catches from boats coming into to Cook Inlet. In the 1920s, many Scandinavians immigrated to Seldovia to capitalize on the herring boom. Seldovia became known throughout south-central Alaska as 'the boardwalk town' after a boardwalk was built to facilitate travel through town. The boardwalk became an important social gathering place for trading information and stories. The City of Seldovia was incorporated in 1945. In 1964, the land mass on which Seldovia was built subsided four feet due to the Good Friday earthquake and the town was subsequently rebuilt above high tide levels.



Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Seldovia is intimately linked to the local and national fishing industries. Seldovia is both a commercial fishing and processing center and a popular sport fishing destination. The timber industry is small but significant to the community and tourism is increasing in importance. A total of 104 commercial fishing permits were held by 57 permit holders in 2000 according to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (ACFEC).

At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, 55.4% of the potential labor force was employed and there was a 6.4% unemployment rate. A seemingly high 38% of the population over 16 years of age was not in the labor force, though this may be explained by the intensely seasonal nature of the fishing industry, and 7.9% of the population was below the poverty level. The median household income in the same year was $45,313 and the per capita income was $23,669.

Governance

The City of Seldovia was incorporated in 1945. The Seldovia has a Council-Manager form of government. The mayor and six council members are elected officials. Seldovia is located in the Kenai Peninsula Borough, which is therefore responsible for many services. The City of Seldovia implements a 2%-4% sales tax, and the borough has a 2% sales tax. In addition, there is a 7.53 mills (0.75%) property tax from the city and a 6.5 mills (0.65%) property tax by the borough. Seldovia has a for-profit Native village corporation, the Seldovia Native Association, Inc. The Association is a business involved in natural resource management such as land leasing and timber sales and is beginning to venture strongly into tourism enterprises. The total land to which Seldovia is entitled under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) amounts to about 181,000 acres. The Seldovia Village Tribe is federally recognized and eligible for funding and services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) by virtue of their status as an Indian tribe. It provides and administers funds for governmental services, such as health care, to its members in both Seldovia and in Homer.

The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMSF) regional office is in Homer, as is the nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Seldovia is accessible only by air and sea as the Sterling Highway ends in Homer, across the Kachemak Bay. The cost of a roundtrip flight from Seldovia to Homer is approximately $50, and from there a roundtrip to Anchorage costs about $200 (prices are based on the closest available date to

September 1, 2003). The community is linked directly to the network of communities visited by ferries on the Alaska Marine Highway and receives year-round barge services and State Ferry service. There is a state-owned and city-operated airport with a 1,845 foot gravel runway, but this is unlit and there are no fuel supplies. Daily scheduled jet flights and air taxis are available. Harbor facilities include a breakwater, dock, a small boat harbor, boat launch, boat haul-out, a ferry terminal, and marine repair services.

Seldovia derives water from the Fish Creek Reservoir which is treated and stored in a tank before being distributed via water mains. Sewage is piped to a community septic tank for primary treatment, and then discharged to an ocean outfall. All homes are completely plumbed. The borough operates a landfill. Electricity is provided by the Homer Electric Association. Health services are provided by the Seldovia Health Clinic which is city-owned and operated by the Seldovia Natives Association. Public safety is provided by a city-backed police department. Seldovia is within the Kenai Peninsula School District and there is one school in Seldovia itself. At Susan B. English School six teachers instruct 75 in K-12 students. Seldovia is developing its tourism industry and is increasing the amount of facilities and businesses that cater to tourists.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing*

Commercial fishing is a main contributor to the economy of Seldovia, along with other natural resource uses. According to the ADF&G, and reported by the ACFEC, 104 permits were held by 57 permit holders in 2000 (60 fished). There were 10 vessel owners in the federal fisheries, 9 vessel owners in the salmon fishery and overall 45 crew members claiming residence in Seldovia. One vessel in the salmon fishery delivered its landings to Seldovia (in accordance with confidentiality regulations, other landings data for the community is unavailable).

Commercial fishing permits are issued according to specifications of species, vessel size, gear type, and fishing area. Permits issued in Seldovia in 2000 related to halibut, herring, sablefish, other groundfish, crab, and salmon.

Halibut: There were a total of 18 permits issued for halibut in Seldovia in 2000, 16 of which were fished. Permits for halibut pertained to 14 longline vessels under 60 feet (12 fished) and four longline vessels over 60 feet. All permits designated for halibut were for statewide waters.

Herring: There were a total of 11 permits issued for the herring fishery, none of which were fished that year. Permits for herring roe pertained to five purse seine limited to Prince William Sound (none fished), four purse seine limited to Cook Inlet (none fished), one purse seine limited to Bristol Bay (not fished), and one gillnet restricted to Norton Sound (not fished).

Sablefish: A total of five sablefish permits were issued, all of which were fished. Permits pertained to three longline vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters and two longline vessels over 60 feet also in statewide waters

Other groundfish: A total of 23 permits were issued for other groundfish in Seldovia, only 7 of which were actually fished. Permits pertained to one lingcod dinglebar troll in statewide waters (not fished), two lingcod mechanical jigs in statewide waters (none fished), three miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (none fished), three miscellaneous saltwater finfish pot gear vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (none fished), seven miscellaneous saltwater finfish mechanical jigs in statewide waters (none fished), two miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (none fished), and five miscellaneous saltwater finfish pot gear vessel over 60 feet in statewide waters (four fished).

Crab: Eight permits were issued in Seldovia for crab in 2000, two of which were fished. Two permits pertained to Dungeness crab pot gear vessels over 60 feet in Yakutat (none fished). Two permits pertained to king crab pot gear vessels over 60 feet in the Bering Sea (none fished). Two permits pertained to king crab pot gear vessels over 60 feet in Bristol Bay (one fished). Two permits pertained to Tanner crab pot gear vessels over 60 feet in the Bering Sea (one fished).

Salmon: A total of 39 permits were issued for the salmon fishery, 30 of which were fished. Salmon permits pertained to 2 purse seine restricted to Cook Inlet (one fished), 3 purse seine restricted to Kodiak (2 fished), 3 purse seines restricted to Chignik, 6 drift gillnets limited to Cook Inlet (2 fished), one drift gillnet in Bristol Bay, 16 set gillnets in Cook Inlet (15 fished), 5 set gillnets in Bristol Bay, 2 set gillnets restricted to

Kotzebue (none fished), and one power gurdy troll in statewide waters (not fished).

Although fish processing, especially of shellfish, is considered an important endeavor in Seldovia, only one processing plant was operating in the town in 2000. In accordance with confidentiality regulations, data for fish landings in the community is unavailable. Port Graham Seafoods, Inc. had the capacity to process salmon that year.

It was announced in July 2003 that Seldovia would receive $3,824 worth of federal salmon disaster funds to be distributed to several municipalities statewide which have been affected by low salmon prices in order to compensate for consequent losses of salmon taxes or raw fish taxes. The Kenai Peninsula Borough, in which Seldovia is located, has been allotted $623,295. The disbursement of these disaster funds illustrates state and federal responses to communities and boroughs affected by recent falling salmon prices. Communities and boroughs are ultimately responsible for the allocation of the funds. Further disbursements are expected in the future to offset the costs of basic public services for which fish taxes become insufficient. In 2002 the Kenai Peninsula Borough received $810 as part of a federal fund set up in accordance with the Endangered Species Act to offset costs to fisheries and communities due to Steller sea lion protection regulations.

Sport Fishing

In 2002, there were seven sport fishing saltwater guides in operation. In 2000, there was a total of 597 sport fishing licenses sold in Seldovia, 242 of which were sold to Alaska residents. Several species are targeted for sport fishing in Seldovia, including halibut, chinook, silver, pink, jack, sockeye and chum salmon, Dolly Varden, steelhead, pollock, rainbow trout, arctic char, manta ray, and black bass. The City of Seldovia's website proclaims: 'Life doesn't get any better than fishing on one of Seldovia's charter boats.'

Subsistence Fishing

Data from 1993 compiled on behalf of the ADF&G's Division of Subsistence provides useful information about subsistence practices in Seldovia. Records describe the subsistence patterns for all 95.4% of households which participated in the use of subsistence resources, including harvesting, sharing, and consuming resources, illustrating the importance of subsistence to life in the community. Of the total population, 89.2% used salmon, 86.2% used non-salmon fish (herring, herring roe, smelt, cod, greenling, halibut, rockfish, sablefish, and trout), many fewer households, only13.8%, used marine mammals, and a high percentage, 90.8%, used marine invertebrates.

The average per capita harvest for1993 was 183.55 lbs. The composition of the total subsistence harvest can be shown by the percentages of the resources which demonstrate the amount of each resource category used by the community relative to other resources categories. The total subsistence harvest was composed of 35.01% salmon, non-salmon fish made up 23.76%, land mammals 12.85%, marine mammals only 0.67%, birds and eggs accounted for 0.70% of the total subsistence harvest, marine invertebrates for 18.5%, and vegetation made up 8.51%. The wild food harvest in Seldovia made up 119% of the recommended dietary allowance of protein in 1993 (corresponding to 49 g of protein per day or 0.424 lbs of wild food per day) (Wolfe, Division of Subsistence, ADF&G).

A total of 15 permits were held by households in Seldovia for subsistence fishing of salmon according to ADF&G records from 1999. Sockeye and chinook made up the largest proportions of the salmon harvest, followed by chum. Residents of Seldovia and members of the Seldovia Village Tribe, an Alaska Native Tribe, who hold a valid Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC) issued by NMFS, are eligible to harvest subsistence halibut. These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.

Seward (return to communities)

People and Place

Location

Seward is located on Resurrection Bay on the southeast coast of the Kenai Peninsula. It lies at the foot of a mountain range, ending in the South with Mount Marathon. Seward is the gateway to Kenai Fjords National Park. The area encompasses 14.4 square miles of land and 7.1 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

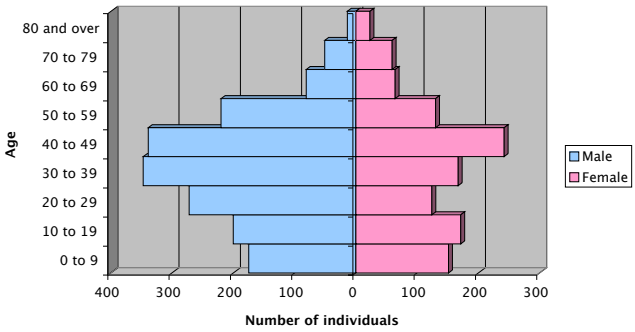
According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of Seward was 2,830. Total population numbers have increased steadily from 1910 when there were 534 residents of the community. There are substantially more males (60% of the population) in the community than females (40% of the population). The racial composition of the population in 2000 included 72.1% White, 16.7% Alaska Native or American Indian, 2.4% Black, 1.8% Asian, and 0.9% classified themselves as 'Other'. Overall, 5.9% of the population identified with two or more races. A total of 20.9% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. Only 2.4% of the population identified as Hispanic. The median age was 37.1 years which is slightly above the national median of 35.3 years. According to census data, 24.7% of the population was under 19 years of age while only 15.5% of the population was over 55 years of age.

There were 917 housing units in Seward, 141 of which were vacant in 2000 and of these, 63 were vacant due to seasonal use. At the time of U.S. Census in 2000, 22.2% of the population lived in group quarters. About 86.7% of the population had a high school diploma or higher according to the 2000 census data while 15.9% had a bachelor's degree or higher.

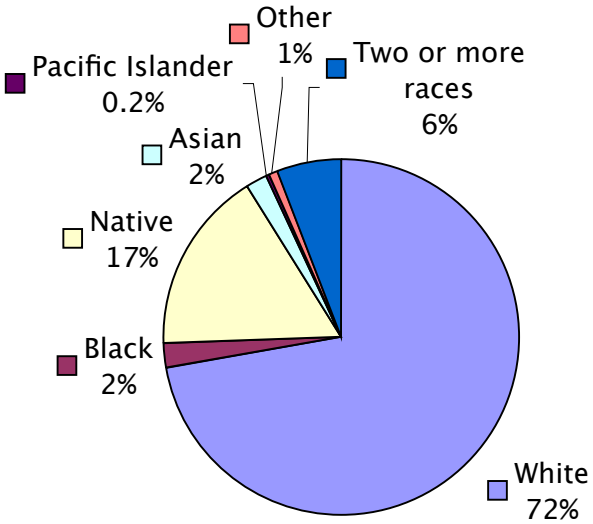
History

Seward does not have a large Native presence and there is little evidence that the immediate area was inhabited or used prior to Russian arrival. Alexander Baranof, a Russian fur trader and explorer, gave Resurrection Bay its name in 1792 when he found shelter from a storm in the bay. The unexpected shelter was discovered by the Russians on the Russian Sunday of the Resurrection. Seward itself was named for U.S. Secretary of State William Seward who negotiated the purchase of Alaska from Russia during the Lincoln

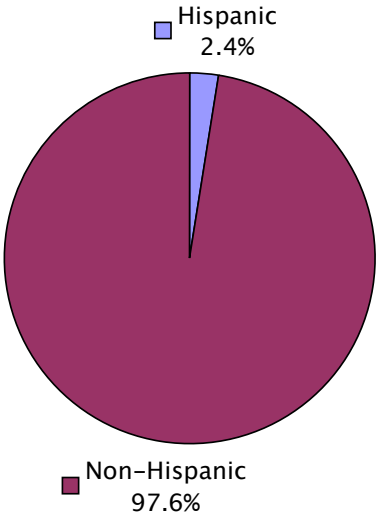
2000 Population Structure
Seward
Data source: US Census



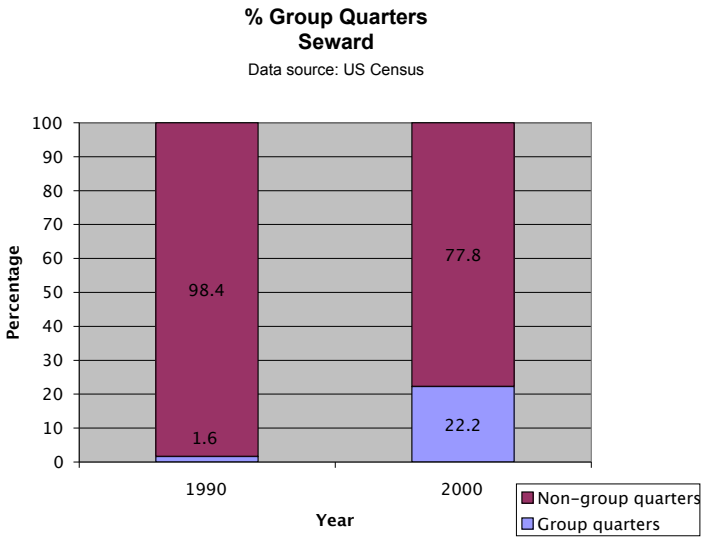
2000 Racial Structure
Seward
Data source: US Census



2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Seward
Data source: US Census



administration in the 1860s. Settlers first arrived in Seward in the 1890s and the settlement became the main supply base for south-central Alaska with the completion of the Alaska Railroad not long afterwards. Construction on the Railroad was begun in 1903 and completed around 1920. Seward was the largest community on the Kenai Peninsula. Community members hoped that Seward would become the main metropolis of Alaska because of its optimum location, ice-free port, and easy access to the interior of the state. Tsunamis created by the magnitude 9.2 Good Friday earthquake in March 1964 destroyed part of the town and killed several people.

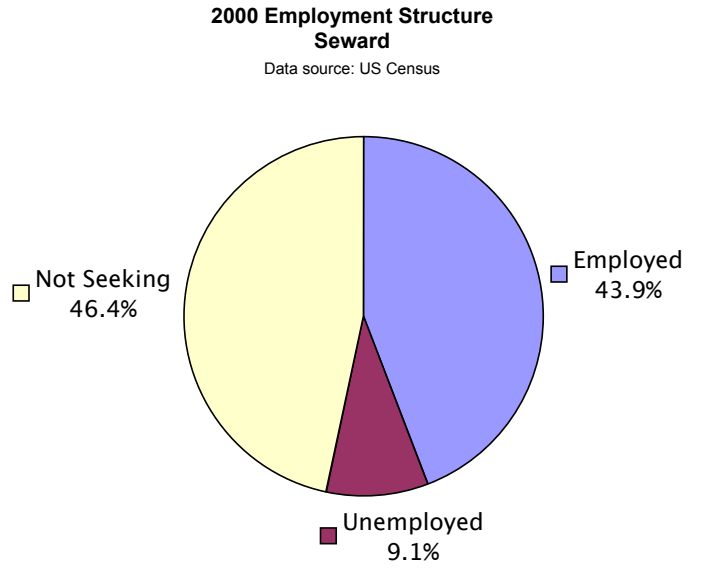


Infrastructure

Current Economy

Seward became a major transportation hub when the Alaska Railroad, which terminates in the town, was built in the early 1900s. Seward is also an overland link both to Anchorage and to the Interior via highways. The economy is based on commercial fishing, tourism, ship services and repair and the fossil fuel industry as well as the transportation of goods. The University of Alaska's Institute of Marine Sciences operates a coastal facility, the Seward Marine Center in the community. The Alaska SeaLife Center, the Chugach Heritage Center, Kenai Fjords National Park, and the Mount Marathon Race and Fourth of July festivities attract visitors throughout the year. In fact, over 320,000 cruise ship passengers visit Seward annually. There are several fish processing plants in Seward with the collective capacity to process halibut, sablefish, other groundfish, and salmon. Salmon is major component of the harvest and the current reduction in salmon prices has adversely affected the economy of Seward.

A total of 164 commercial fishing permits were held by 80 permit holders in 2000 according to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (ACFEC). At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, 43.9% of the potential labor force was employed and 9.1% were unemployed. A high percentage, 46.4% of the population over 16 years of age, was not in the labor force but may be largely seasonally involved with the commercial fishing industry, and 10.6% of the population lived below the poverty level. The median household income in the same year was $44,306 and the per capita income was $20,360.



Governance

The City of Seward was incorporated in 1912 and residents subsequently voted to adopt a Home Rule Charter. The City of Seward has a Council-Manager form of government. The mayor and six council members are elected officials. The city manager, city clerk, and the city attorney are appointed by the council. Seward belongs to the Kenai Peninsula Borough. The city of Seward implements a 4% sales tax and the borough collects a 2% sales tax in Seward. The city collects a 3.22 mills (0.32%) tax on property and the borough also collects 6.5 mills (0.65%) on property. Additionally, the city implements a 4% accommodations tax. Seward is a member of the for-profit Native regional corporation Chugach Corporation under the Alaska Natives Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). The Chugach Alaska Corporation Region includes the four communities of Cordova, Seward, Valdez, and Whittier, and the five Native villages of Port Graham,

Chenega Bay, Eyak, Nanwalek (English Bay) and Tatitlek. Approximately 550,000 acres of the lands are subsurface estate from the region's Native village surface entitlements. It includes more than 5,000 miles of coastline, at the heart of which lies Prince William Sound. The Qutekcak Native Tribe is the local village council, but is not recognized as an ANCSA village. There are two local village corporations in Seward: the Grouse Creek Corporation and the Mount Marathon Native Association.

The most easily accessible National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regional office, Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS), and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office are all in Anchorage.

Facilities

Seward is readily accessible by road, air, and sea. Seward is connected to the extensive Alaska Highway system by the Seward Highway. Because of Seward's proximity to Anchorage and the accessibility of the Seward Highway, no airline offers regular scheduled flights between Seward and Anchorage. A flight can be chartered for approximately $1,700. Two paved runways, of 4,240 and 2, 300 feet each are available for chartered and daily flights to the state-owned airport. The small boat harbor at Seward has can accommodate up to 650 boats and has two boat launch ramps. The Port of Seward receives national and international ships, including the State Ferry, cargo barges, and ocean freighters from Seattle and further away connecting to the Alaska Railroad, which transports over 14 billion pounds of cargo annually. The Alaska Railroad imports cargo to the Interior and exports coal to the Pacific Rim.

Seward's treated water supply is drawn from eight wells. Sewage is piped to a secondary treatment lagoon. Nearly all homes in Seward are plumbed and the Borough provides landfill facilities. Electricity is purchased by the Seward Electric system from Chugach Electric. Health services are provided privately by the Providence Seward Medical Center and North Star Health Clinic. Public safety is provided by a city-backed police department and state troopers. Seward is within the Kenai Peninsula Schools district and there are three schools in Seward itself. At Seward Elementary School 23 teachers instruct 356 students, 26 teachers instruct 406 students at Seward Middle/high School, and 4 teachers instruct 33 students in 11th and 12th grades at Spring Creek School. Seward has a highly developed tourism industry and there are several businesses including numerous accommodation providers which cater to visitors all year.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing is important to the economy of Seward. According to the ADF&G, and reported by the ACFEC, 164 permits were held by 80 permit holders but only 86 permits were fished in Seward in 2000. There were 25 vessel owners in the federal fisheries, 24 vessel owners in the salmon fishery, and 198 crew members claiming residence in Seward. The commercial vessel fleet delivering landings to Seward was involved in halibut (169 vessels), sablefish (129 vessels), other ground fish (203 vessels), and salmon (211 vessels) fisheries in 2000. Landings included 2,678.79 tons of federally managed fish species (in accordance with confidentiality regulations, landings data for specific species are unavailable) and 11,530.35 tons of salmon.

Commercial fishing permits are issued according to specifications of species, vessel size, gear type, and fishing area. Permits issued in Seward for the year 2000 related to halibut, herring, other finfish, sablefish, other groundfish, crab, other shellfish, and salmon.

Halibut: There were a total of 29 permits issued for halibut, 27 of which were fished. Permits for halibut pertained to one hand troll, 21 longline vessels under 60 feet (19 fished), and 7 longline vessels over 60 feet. All permits designated for halibut were for statewide waters.

Herring: There were a total of 14 permits issued for the herring fishery in Seward in 2000, only 2 of which were fished that year. Permits for herring roe pertained to three purse seine limited to Prince William Sound (none fished), three purse seine limited to Cook Inlet (none fished), five purse seine limited to Bristol Bay (one fished), two gillnets restricted to Norton Sound (one fished), and one permit for harvesting herring food/bait with a purse seine in Prince William Sound (not fished).

Other finfish: Three permits were issued for other finfish, none of which were fished. Permits pertained to one fresh water fish beach seine in statewide waters (not fished), one freshwater fish set gillnet in statewide waters (not fished), and one freshwater fish longline

vessel under 60 feet in statewide waters (not fished).

Sablefish: A total of 18 sablefish permits were issued in 2000 in Seward, 12 of which were fished. Permits pertained to 11 longline vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (6 fished), one mechanical jig in statewide waters (not fished), one for a fixed gear vessel of maximum 60 feet length restricted to Prince William Sound, one for a fixed gear vessel of maximum 50 feet length restricted to Prince William Sound, one longline vessel over 60 feet restricted to northern southeast waters, two longline vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters and one longline vessel over 60 feet in southern southeast waters.

Other groundfish: A total of 44 permits were issued in 2000 for other groundfish in Seward, only 13 of which were fished. Permits pertained to one lingcod hand troll in statewide waters (not fished), one lingcod longline vessel under 60 feet in statewide waters (not fished), one lingcod dinglebar troll in statewide waters (not fished), 2 lingcod mechanical jigs in statewide waters (none fished), 3 miscellaneous saltwater finfish hand troll in statewide waters (none fished), 5 miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (7 fished), 4 miscellaneous saltwater finfish pot gear vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (none fished), 12 miscellaneous saltwater finfish mechanical jigs in statewide waters (4 fished), 3 miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (one fished), and 2 miscellaneous saltwater finfish pot gear vessel over 60 feet in statewide waters (one fished).

Crab: Five permits were issued in Seward for crab, three of which were actually fished. One permit pertained to 75 pots or 25% of maximum for Dungeness crab in southeast waters (not fished), 2 permits pertained to pot gear for king and Tanner crab in southeast, one permit for a king crab pot gear vessel over 60 feet in Bristol Bay (not fished) and one Tanner crab pot gear vessel over 60 feet in the Bering Sea.

Other shellfish: Of five other shellfish permits, only one was fished. Permits issued in Seward pertained to one shrimp pot gear vessel under 60 feet in westward waters (not fished), one shrimp pot gear in southeast waters (not fished), one shrimp pot gear vessel over 60 feet in westward waters (not fished), one sea cucumber diving gear permit for statewide waters but excluding southeast waters, one sea urchin diving gear permit for statewide waters but excluding southeast waters (not fished).

Salmon: A total of 46 permits were issued for the salmon fishery, 28 of which were fished. Salmon permits pertained to one purse seine restricted to southeast waters, 10 purse seine restricted to Prince William Sound (3 fished), 9 purse seine restricted to Cook Inlet (five permits were actually fished), five purse seines restricted to Kodiak (4 fished), 4 purse seine restricted to Chignik (5 fished), one drift gillnet limited to southeast waters, 6 drift gillnets limited to Prince William Sound (4 fished), 2 drift gillnets limited to Cook Inlet, one set gillnet in Prince William Sound, 5 set gillnets in Bristol Bay (3 fished), and 2 hand trolls in statewide waters (none fished).

Between the five processors registered in Seward in 2000, there were facilities for processing halibut, salmon, sablefish, and groundfish. These processors are significant seasonal employers and providers of harbor and portside facilities. Resurrection Bay Seafoods, a processing plant in Seward owned by Wards Cove Packing Company, was purchased by Seattle-based Smoki Foods in the spring of 2003, just before the opening of the halibut season. In recent years, the Seward plant has primarily been a halibut and black cod processing facility. It was put on the market in December after Wards Cove announced it was closing the doors of its Alaska salmon processing facilities.

It was announced in July 2003 that Seward would receive $117,135 worth of federal salmon disaster funds to be distributed to several municipalities statewide which have been affected by low salmon prices in order to compensate for consequent losses of salmon taxes or raw fish taxes. The Kenai Peninsula Borough, in which Seward is located, has been allocated $623,295. The disbursement of these disaster funds illustrates state and federal responses to communities and boroughs affected by recent falling salmon prices. Communities and boroughs are ultimately responsible for the allocation of the funds. Further disbursements are expected in the future to offset the costs of basic public services for which fish taxes become insufficient. In 2002, the City of Seward received $810 and the Aleutians East Borough, in which Seward is located, received $140,063 as part of a federal fund set up in accordance with the Endangered Species Act to offset costs to fisheries and communities due to Steller sea lion protection regulations.

Sport Fishing

The considerable diversity of fish species available

for recreational fishing in the waters around Seward, as well as the town's easy accessibility, make it popular destination for sport fishers. Chinook salmon, silver salmon, red salmon, halibut, rockfish, and lingcod are common sportfishing species found in the nearby marine waters. There were 37 saltwater sport fishing businesses registered in Seward in 2002 and four freshwater businesses. There was a total of 13,923 sport fishing licenses sold in Seward in 2000, 4,099 of which were sold to Alaska residents. The high numbers are due to Seward's famous river fishing which attract people from all over the world and necessitate arranging accommodation and fishing guides well in advance during summer months.

Subsistence Fishing

According to 2003-2004 Federal subsistence fishery regulations, Seward is designated as a Federal nonrural area. Correspondingly, residents of Seward are not eligible for subsistence fishing permits and are not permitted to harvest fish or shellfish under Federal subsistence regulations.

A total of five permits were held by households in Seward for subsistence fishing of salmon according to ADF&G's Division of Subsistence records from 1999. Salmon is not a federally managed fish, and is therefore not subject to the same restriction as other fisheries. Pink salmon made up the largest proportions of the salmon harvest, followed by sockeye and chum.

Soldotna (return to communities)

People and Place

Location

Soldotna is located on the Kenai Peninsula, approximately 150 miles southwest of Anchorage on the Sterling Highway. It lies on the Kenai River and 10 miles inland from Cook Inlet. The area encompasses 6.9 square miles of land and 0.5 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

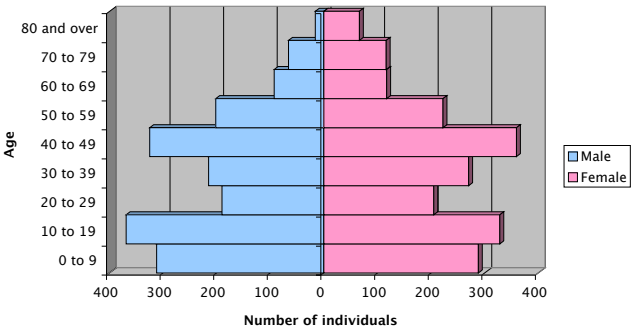
Since its founding after WWII, the community of Soldotna has grown rapidly. The population tripled between 1970 and 2000 alone, due to increased employment opportunities and the growth of the local oil industry. In 2000, the community had 3,759 residents in 1,465 households. A small proportion of the population (51 people, or 1.4%) lived in group quarters. The gender composition of the community was slightly unequal, at 52.4% female and 47.6% male. The racial makeup of Soldotna is as follows: White (88.1%), Alaska Native or American Indian (5.0%), Black (0.3%), Asian (1.7%), Hawaiian Native (0.4%), Other (1.3%), and two or more races (3.3%). A total of 6.9% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. Residents of Hispanic origin make up 3.2% of the population. The median age in Soldotna is 34.9 years, slightly younger than the U.S. national average of 35.3 years. Approximately 87.6% of residents have educational attainment of a high school degree or higher.

History

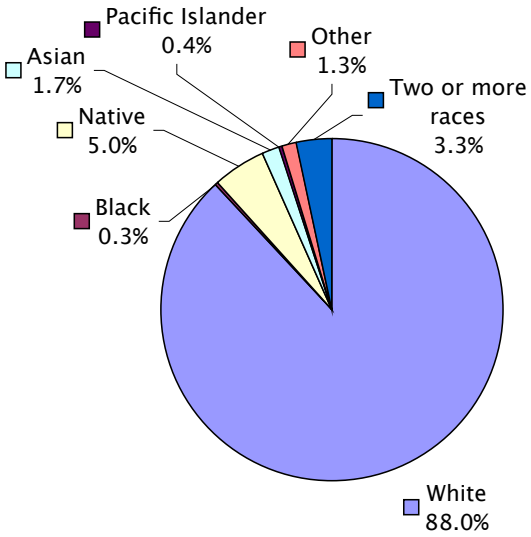
Like other areas on the Kenai Peninsula, the area surrounding Soldotna is known to have been inhabited by Athabascan people since prehistory. The first permanent White settlers, however, were WWII veterans who were given a 90-day preference over non-veterans for filing for homestead property in 1947. During that same year, the Sterling Highway right-of-way was constructed from Cooper Landing to Kenai; Soldotna was established at the point where the highway crossed the Kenai River.

In 1949, a post office was established in the community. In 1957, oil was discovered in the Swanson River region; oil continues to be a major force for growth in Soldotna.

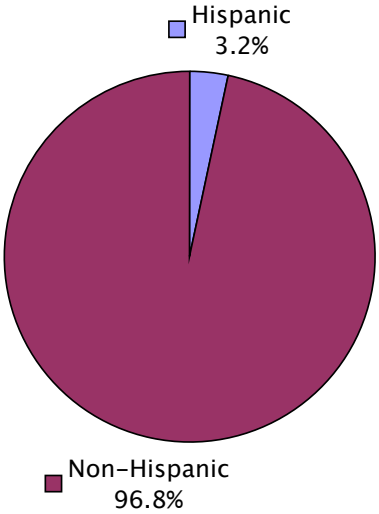
2000 Population Structure
Soldotna
Data source: US Census



2000 Racial Structure
Soldotna
Data source: US Census



2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Soldotna
Data source: US Census



Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Soldotna has three major components: the oil industry in Cook Inlet, commercial fishing and fish processing, and the service sector, including the Central Peninsula General Hospital, Peninsula Community College, and the borough and school district offices.

The median annual per capita income is $21,740, and the median household income is $48,420. Approximately 6.2% of the total potential labor force is unemployed, and 30.7% of residents 16 years of age and older were not in the labor force (i.e. not working and not seeking work). Approximately 6.6% of residents live below the poverty level.

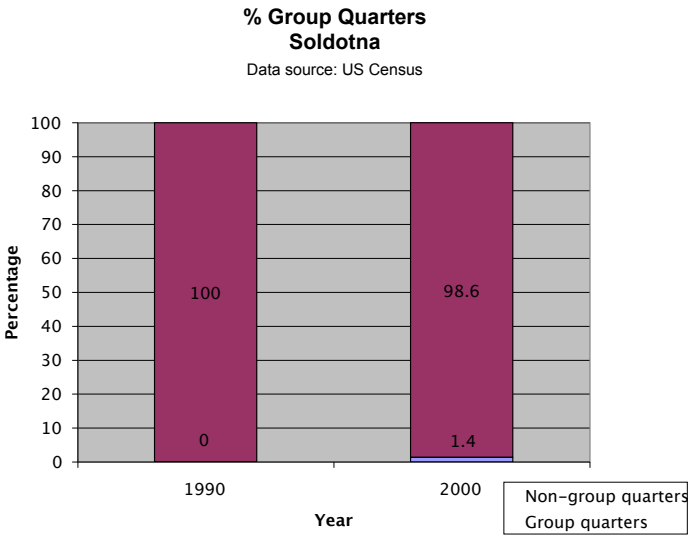
Governance

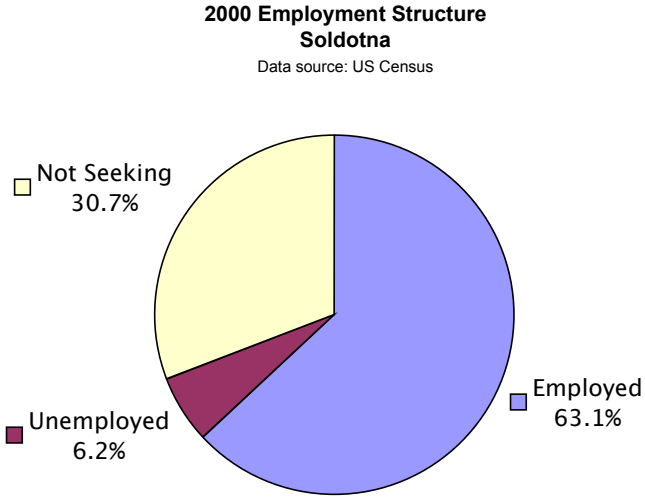
Soldotna was first incorporated as a city in 1960, and has a manager form of government. It is under the jurisdiction of the Kenai Peninsula Borough, and received first-class city status in 1967. Government revenues come from a 3% sales tax, administered by the city, and a 2% sales tax administered by the borough. There is also a 0.475% (4.75 mills) property tax administered by the city and a 0.65% (6.5 mills) property tax administered by the borough.

Facilities

Access to Soldotna is via the Sterling Highway from Kenai. There is also a 5,000 foot municipal airport, and the Kenai Municipal Airport, with scheduled flights and floatplane facilities, is located 10 miles away. Roundtrip airfare from Kenai to Anchorage is approximately $134. In addition, there are four other private landing strips in Soldotna.

Water and sewer services are provided by the city. Electricity is provided by the Homer Electric Association by a hydroelectric generator and natural gas generator. The city provides police services. Other important facilities located in Soldotna include the Central Peninsula General Hospital, the Kenai Peninsula Community College, and the borough school district offices.





Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing is a major part of the local economy in Soldotna. The Cook Inlet salmon fishery accounts for the most significant portion of commercial fishing activities for Soldotna residents. In 2000, there were 173 residents who held a total of 220 commercial fishing permits. There were 255 registered crew members. The following section contains detailed information about commercial permits issued to Soldotna residents in 2000.

Halibut: Thirty-nine residents held a total of 40 commercial permits for the halibut fishery, and 27 permits were fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: one halibut hand troll permit for statewide waters (none fished), 32 halibut longline permit for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (22 fished), one halibut mechanical jig permit for statewide waters (one fished), and 6 halibut longline permits for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (4 fished).

Herring: Fourteen residents held a total of 16 permits in the herring fishery, and 5 permits were fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: seven herring roe gillnet permits for Cook Inlet (two fished), one herring roe gillnet permit for Kodiak (none fished), two herring roe gillnet permits for Security Cove (none fished), four herring roe gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (two fished), and two herring roe gillnet permits for Norton Sound (one fished).

Sablefish: Three local residents held a total of three permits in the sablefish longline fishery for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters, but no permits were fished.

Other Groundfish: Eight local residents held a total of 10 permits for the groundfish fishery, and 3 permits were fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: two lingcod mechanical jig permits for statewide waters (none fished), four miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (none fished), three miscellaneous saltwater finfish mechanical jig permits for statewide waters (two fished), and one miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline permit for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (one fished).

Shellfish: Four residents held a total of five commercial permits for the shellfish fishery, and two permits were fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: one shrimp pot gear permit for the southeast region (one fished), and four clam shovel permits for statewide waters (one fished).

Salmon: There were 145 local residents holding a total of 146 permits for the salmon fishery, and 122 permits were fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: one salmon purse seine permit for the southeast region (one fished), one salmon purse seine permit for Prince William Sound (one fished), one salmon purse seine permit for the Kodiak fishery (one fished), one salmon beach seine permit for the Kodiak fishery (none fished), 5 salmon drift gillnet permits for the southeast region (5 fished), 55 salmon drift gillnet permits for Cook Inlet (53 fished), 9 salmon drift gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (10 fished), 56 salmon set gillnet permits for Cook Inlet (39 fished), 2 salmon set gillnet permits for the Kodiak fishery (2 fished), one salmon set gillnet permit for the Alaska Peninsula (one fished), one salmon set gillnet permit for the Upper Yukon River (none fished), 11 salmon set gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (9 fished), one salmon set gillnet permit for Norton Sound (none fished), and one salmon power gurdy troll permit for statewide waters (none fished).

In 2000, there was one commercial fish processing plant in Soldotna. In accordance with confidentiality regulations, landings data for the community are unavailable. In 2002, the Kenai Peninsula Borough received $810 in federal funds to compensate for fisheries losses due to Steller sea lion habitat protection under the Endangered Species Act. In 2003, Soldotna received $500 in federal salmon disaster funds to compensate for falling salmon prices. The Kenai Peninsula Borough as a whole received $623,295 in salmon disaster funds, a portion of which will likely be used for programs that affect Soldotna.

Sport Fishing

Fishermen from Alaska, the lower 48 states, Canada, and elsewhere come to Soldotna to fish the Kenai River for chinook, sockeye, and coho salmon. There is also easy access to Cook Inlet for Halibut, as well as to nearby lakes and streams for trout, Dolly Varden, and other species.

Fishermen from outside Alaska, particularly those from the lower 48 U.S. states, play an important role in Soldotna's sport fishing industry. In 2000, sport fishing license sales in Soldotna totaled 31,917; of these, 21,244 (or 66.6%) were sold to non-residents. There were 79 registered saltwater sport fishing guides and 156 freshwater sport fishing guides in 2002.

Subsistence Fishing

Subsistence hunting and fishing are practiced in Soldotna. However, detailed data on subsistence uses from the ADF&G's Division of Subsistence is lacking. In 1999, 8 households in Soldotna held subsistence salmon harvesting permits, and collected a total of 611 salmon, the vast majority of which were sockeye. Soldotna is not considered a rural community by the Federal Subsistence Board; community residents are not eligible to harvest subsistence resources on federally managed lands and waters. All subsistence harvesting must take place on state lands and waters.

Sterling (return to communities)

People and Place

Location

The community of Sterling is situated inland from the Cook Inlet along the Sterling Highway at the confluence of the Moose and Kenai Rivers. The area encompasses 77.3 square miles of land and 2.1 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

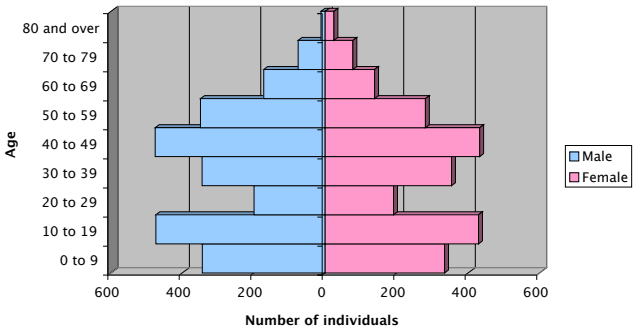
According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of Sterling was 4,705. Total population numbers have increased steadily since the 1960's when the population numbered in the 100s. The gender was skewed in Sterling towards males: 52% of the population, and 48% females in 2000. The racial composition of the population was predominantly White at 92.7%, 3.3% Alaska Native or American Indian, 0.4% Black, 0.5% Asian, 0.1% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and 0.6% other. Overall, 2.5% of the population identified with two or more races. A total of 4.6% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. Only 1.2% of the population identified as Hispanic. The median age was 36.4 years which is comparable to the national median of 35.3 years. According to census data, 33.6% of the population was under 19 years of age while only 16.1% of the population was over 55 years of age.

There were 2,554 housing units in Sterling, 878 of which were vacant in 2000. Of these, 706 were vacant due to seasonal use. At the time of the 2000 Census, a small number, 0.3%, of the population lived in group quarters. About 89.2% of the population had a high school diploma or higher while 17.8% had a bachelor's degree or higher.

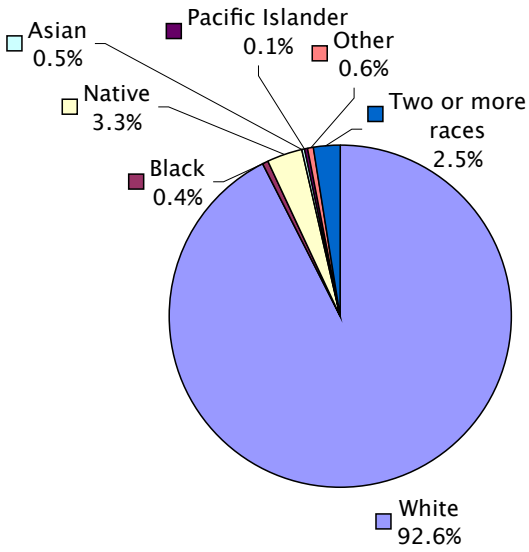
History

Due to its maritime climate and easy access, south-central Alaska has long been a gathering place for Native Alaskans from diverse places. Human occupation and migration across the Kenai Peninsula is known to date from some several thousand years ago at places such as Beluga Point along the Seward Highway and at the Isaac Walton Campground. The area around Sterling was traditionally Kenaitze Indian territory. Sterling's name was formalized in 1954 when a post office was established in the town which became an industrial hub after the arrival of explorers

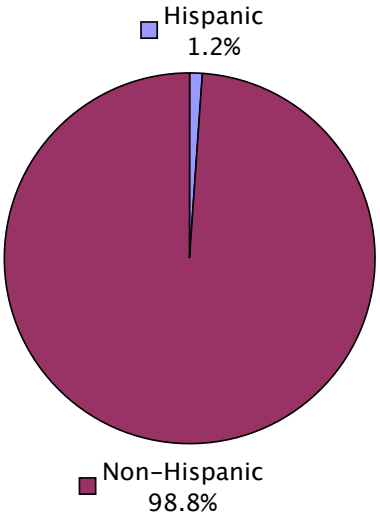
2000 Population Structure
Sterling
Data source: US Census



2000 Racial Structure
Sterling
Data source: US Census



2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Sterling
Data source: US Census



and prospectors.

Infrastructure

Current Economy

The community of Sterling caters to the sport fishing industry and summer influx of recreational enthusiasts who stop while passing by on the Sterling Highway or who make the attractive region around Sterling their vacation destination. Like elsewhere on the Kenai Peninsula, the economy is diverse; oil and gas processing, timber, fishing, government, retail, and tourism-related services provide employment.

A total of 26 commercial fishing permits were held by 16 permit holders in 2000 as reported by ACFEC. In 2000, 62% of the potential labor force was employed and 6% was unemployed. A high percentage, 38% of the population over 16 years of age, was not in the labor force but may be largely seasonally involved with the summer sport fishing industry and 10% of the population lived below the poverty level. The median household income in the same year was $47,700 and the per capita income was $20,741.

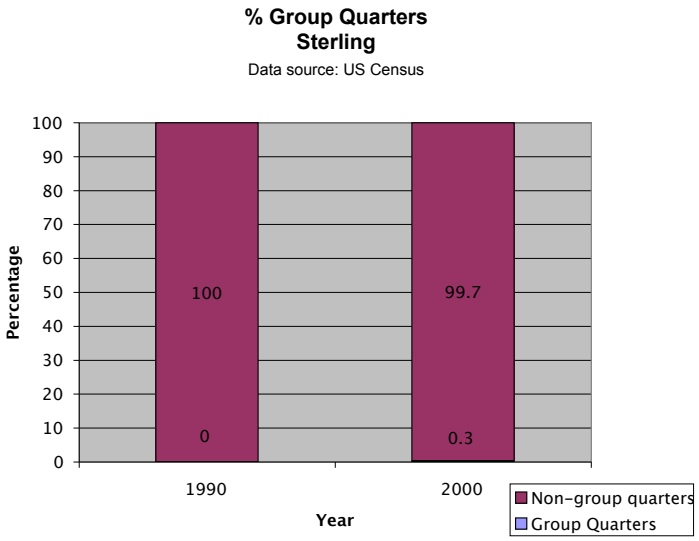
Governance

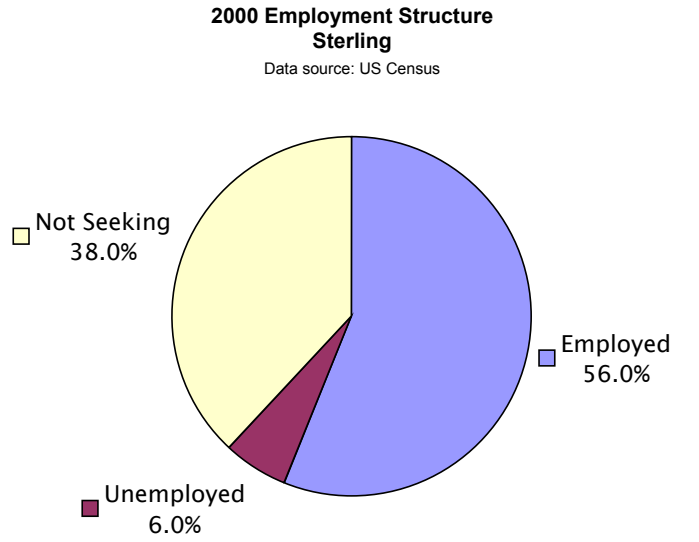
Sterling is an unincorporated city within the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Because of the city's status as unincorporated, there are neither city officials nor borough officials located in the city, nor are there municipal or borough finances dispersed to the city. Sterling is not a member of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), with no land allotment under the Act. It is not a federally recognized Native village nor does it have a Native village corporation or belong to a regional Native corporation.

The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regional office is in Homer, as is the nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

The community of Sterling is readily accessible by road along the Sterling Highway which connects the community to Anchorage. There is an impressive total of four private airstrips in the vicinity as well as a private seaplane base at Scout Lake. No airline provides regularly scheduled flights to or from Sterling. Two privately-operated boat launches serve the community.





Both airport and docking facilities are available at the nearby towns of Soldotna and Kenai.

The vast majority of homes in Sterling use individual wells and septic systems and are fully plumbed. The school has its own well. The Borough provides a refuse transfer station along the Sterling Highway. Electricity is provided by the Homer Electric Association. There are no local health care facilities or public safety providers. Sterling is within the Kenai Peninsula School District and there is one school in Sterling itself. At Sterling Elementary School, 225 students in kindergarten through 6th grade are instructed by 12 teachers.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Although it is located several miles inland from

Cook Inlet, commercial fishing is significant to the economy of Sterling. According to the ADF&G and reported by (ACFEC), 26 permits were held by 16 permit holders, but only 19 permits were fished in Sterling in 2000. There were 3 vessel owners in the federal fisheries, 8 vessel owners in the salmon fishery and overall 48 crew members claiming residence in Sterling. Sterling is located inland from Cook Inlet and has no access to the open waters, so there are no harbor or fish processing facilities and no fish landings were made.

Commercial fishing permits are issued according to specifications of species, vessel size, gear type, and fishing area. Permits issued in Sterling for 2000 related to halibut, herring, other groundfish, other shellfish, and salmon.

Halibut: There were a total of seven permits issued for halibut, six of which were fished. Permits for halibut pertained to one hand troll (not fished), three longline vessels under 60 feet, and three longline vessels over 60 feet. All permits designated for halibut were for statewide waters.

Herring: There were a total of three permits issued for the herring fishery, none of which were fished that year. Permits for herring roe pertained to one gillnet in Cook Inlet (not fished) and two gillnets restricted to Kodiak (none fished).

Other groundfish: One permit was issued for groundfish, pertaining to one miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline vessel under 60 feet in statewide waters (not fished).

Other shellfish: Three permits were issued, and all permits were fished. These pertained to three permits for clamming with shovels statewide.

Salmon: A total of 12 permits were issued for the salmon fishery, 10 of which were fished. Salmon permits pertained to one purse seine restricted to southeast waters, one beach seine in Kodiak (not fished), five drift gillnets limited to Cook Inlet and five set gillnets limited to Cook Inlet (four fished).

It was announced in July 2003 that the Kenai Peninsula Borough, in which Sterling is located, had been allocated $623,295 worth of federal salmon disaster funds to be distributed to several municipalities statewide which have been affected by low salmon prices in order to compensate for consequent losses of salmon taxes or raw fish taxes. The disbursement of these disaster funds illustrates state and federal responses to communities and boroughs affected by recent falling salmon prices. Communities and boroughs are ultimately responsible for the allocation of the funds. Further disbursements are expected in the future to offset the costs of basic public services for which fish taxes become insufficient. In 2002, the Kenai Peninsula received $810 as part of a federal fund set up in accordance with the Endangered Species Act to offset costs to fisheries and communities due to Steller sea lion protection regulations.

Sport Fishing

Although little archival or recorded information is available to reflect and detail the importance of sport fishing to the community of Sterling, it is a significant element of the lifestyle and a major attraction to visitors. There was a total of 2,775 sport fishing licenses sold in Seward in 2000, 533 of which were sold to Alaska residents. The high numbers are due to Seward's famous salmon derbies which attract people from all over the world and necessitate arranging accommodation and fishing guides well in advance.

Subsistence Fishing

Although the ADF&G have not obtained a profile of subsistence practices in Sterling, subsistence is alluded to, though not detailed, in other material. Hunting, gathering, and fishing are the means by which a significant portion of wild-foods are collected.

4.2.4 Prince William Sound

Communities

Cordova
Fritz Creek
Valdez
Whittier

Geographic Location

Price William Sound is situated between the Kenai Peninsula on the west and Southeast Alaska on the east. The sound consists of a labyrinth of fjords at roughly 61 °North Lat.

Weather

The climate of Prince William Sound is influenced by its coastal location. Temperatures are mild, with average highs in the summertime around 60 °F and average wintertime lows around 20 °F. Precipitation in the Sound is quite heavy, averaging around 60 inches of rain annually. Valdez, located at the north edge of the sound, receives an incredible 325 inches (roughly 27 feet) of snow each year.

General Characterization

Prince William Sound has been the home of Alutiiq (Sugpiaq) people for some 5,000 years. Athabascan and Tlingit groups, who migrated into the sound from other areas, have also been present since prehistory. Since the late 1700s, the region has been a crossroads for explorers, miners, fishermen, and the Native inhabitants of the region. In particular, the presence of a protected, deep-water port at Valdez has been a key ingredient in the development of the region, culminating in the construction of the Trans-Alaska oil pipeline terminus in the 1970s.

Today, Prince William Sound, most of which lies within the Valdez-Cordova Census Area, is home to some 10,000 inhabitants. Most residents live within the large towns of Valdez and Cordova; the other residents are scattered throughout a few dozen small communities. The demographics of the region have changed quite dramatically through time. The construction of the Trans-Alaska oil pipeline, the build-up and withdrawal of U.S. military personnel, particularly in Whittier, and the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill— are all factors that have influenced the dramatic flux in the composition of Prince William Sound. Today, some 13% of residents are all or part Alaska Native. The gender composition of the region, at over 53% male, reflects the imbalance of labor opportunities.

Institutional Framework

Communities in Prince William Sound belong to the Valdez-Cordova Census Area but are not under the jurisdiction of an organized borough. As a result, the communities themselves are responsible for basic services and tax administration. The communities profiled here also belong to the Prince William Sound Economic Development Council, a forum that deals with regional economic issues and community development. In addition, the communities have membership in the Chugach Corporation, a Native regional corporation created under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) in 1971. Some communities also have Native village councils.

Commercial, Sport, and Subsistence Fisheries

Fishing is a major part of the regional economy in Prince William Sound. The communities here all have significant numbers of registered crew members, vessel owners, and permit holders. In addition, vessels from around the region make landings here; salmon landings alone were made by more than 1,000 vessels in 2000. To that extent, commercial fishing and fish processing account for a large portion of employment opportunities in the region.

Sport and subsistence fishing are also important components of regional involvement in the fishery. Sport fishing license sales for the communities profiled in this section totaled more than the population of the communities combined. A large portion of incoming sport fishermen are from elsewhere in Alaska, but sport fishermen from the lower 48 states and Canada

are increasingly coming to the region. Major sport species include all five species of Pacific salmon, halibut, rockfish, and lingcod.

In addition, more than 95% of local households use subsistence resources, including salmon and non-salmon fish. Annual per capita harvests ranged from 79.9 lbs in Whittier to 179.4 lbs in Cordova.

Regional Challenges

Prince William Sound faces several particular challenges. The first is the result of the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill, which leaked some 11 million gallons of oil into the Sound. Ecological damages and economic losses due to declines in fishing and tourism revenues have been significant.

The second challenge, declining salmon returns, is one that is familiar to many regions in Alaska. Salmon prices have fallen drastically in recent years, in part because of increased foreign competition. Both Valdez and Cordova received relatively small sums to compensate for economic losses due to salmon price declines.

Cordova (return to communities)

People and Place

Location

Cordova is located on the western edge of the Copper River Delta in the Chugach National Forest in the Gulf of Alaska and at the southeastern end of Prince William Sound. The community was built on Orca Inlet, at the base of Eyak Mountain. The area encompasses 61.4 square miles of land and 14.3 square miles of water.

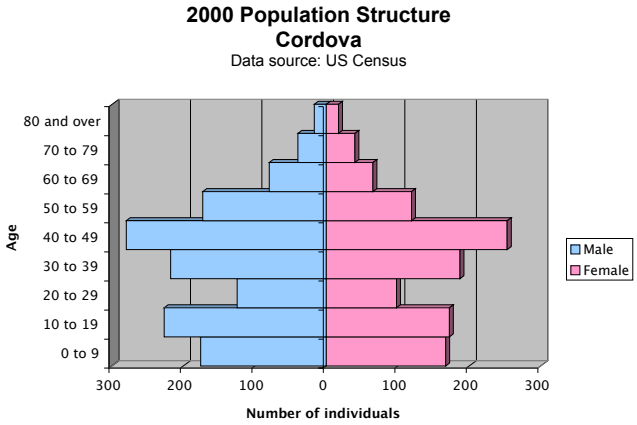
Demographic Profile

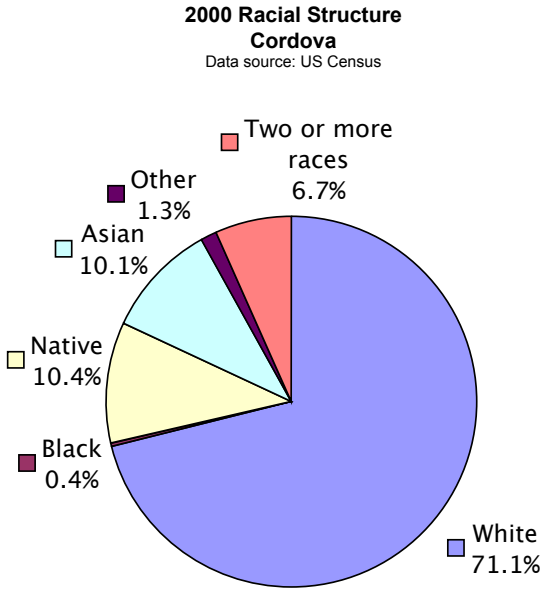
According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of Cordova was 2,434. Total population numbers were reasonably stable between the early 1900s and late 1970s. Since the 1980s there has been a steady increase in the population corresponding with the growth of the commercial fishing industry. The genders in Cordova were slanted towards males (54.5%), and 45.5% females. The racial composition of the population in 2000 included 71.7% White, 10.4% American Indian and Alaska Native, 10.1% Asian, 0.4% Black, and 1.3% classified themselves as 'Other'. Overall, 6.7% of the population identified with two or more races. A total of 15% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. Only 3.1% of the population identified as Hispanic. The median age was 36.9 years which is similar the national median of 35.3 years. According to census data, 30.2% of the population was under 19 years of age and 15.2% of the population was over 55 years of age.

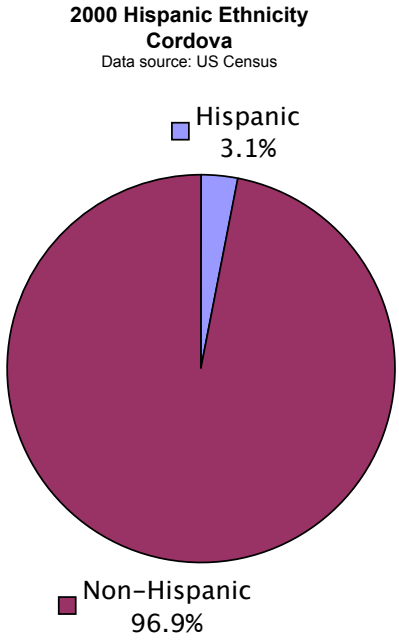
There were 958 housing units in Cordova, 141 of which were vacant in 2000. Of these, 68 were vacant due to seasonal use. At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, about 3.1% of the population lived in group quarters. About 88.6% of the population had a high school diploma or higher, and 21.4% had a bachelor's degree or higher.

History

The first inhabitants living in the area that is now Cordova, along the edges of Prince William Sound, were the Alutiiq people who subsisted for centuries on the natural resources at hand. At some point, they were joined by migrating Athabaskans and Tlingit who called themselves Eyaks. Eyak Mountain and a large lake east of the current town take there names from these people. Alaska Natives of other descents have

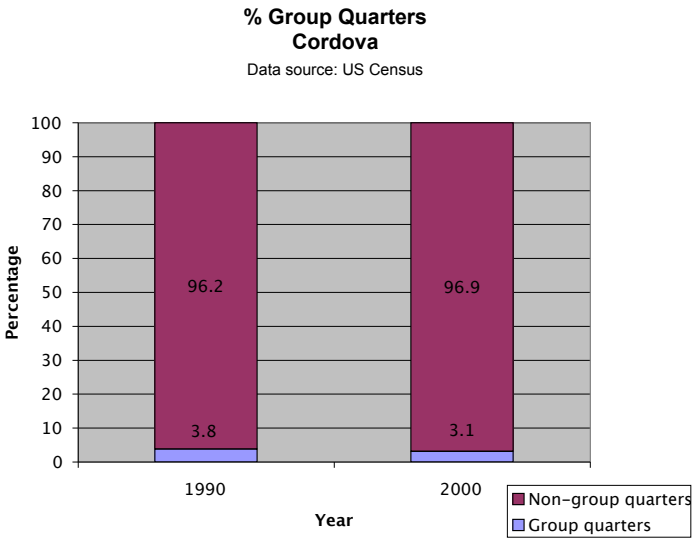


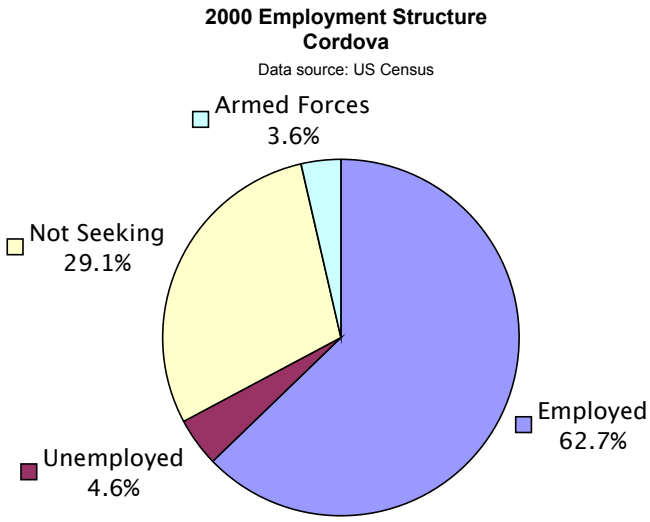




also joined the settlements in the area. Reportedly, there is only one full-blooded Eyak alive today, a woman in her 80s, who speaks the Eyak language.

Orca Inlet was known to the non-Native world as 'Puerto Cordova,' named by Don Salvador Fidalgo in 1790. By the late 1880s the first copper miners began arriving. A century later, one of the first producing oil fields in Alaska was discovered at Katalla, 47 miles southeast of Cordova. Subsequently, the town of Cordova was named in 1906 by Michael Heney, builder of the Copper River and Northwestern Railroad, and the City was formed in 1909. The Katalla oil field was in operation until 1933 when it was destroyed by a disastrous fire. Cordova became the railroad terminus and ocean shipping port for copper ore from the Kennecott Mine up the Copper River. The Bonanza-Kennecott Mines which operated from the early 1900s yielded over $200 million in copper, silver, and gold, but closed in 1938. The railway was consequently shut down. The Good Friday earthquake in 1964 halted the state's attempt to build a highway along the old railroad grade. Twenty-five years later, in 1989, the Exxon Valdez oil spill devastated the local ecology and had far-reaching environmental, political, economic, and cultural ramifications. Commercial fishing has somewhat recovered, and scenic Cordova has remained an unspoiled location for a variety of outdoor activities.





Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economic base of Cordova has been the fishing industry since the 1940s and roughly half of all households have at least one member directly involved in commercial harvesting or processing. There are several fish processing plants in Cordova which serve a large fleet relative for Prince William Sound. Salmon is major component of the harvest and the current reduction in salmon prices has adversely affected the economy of Cordova. The largest employers are Bear and Wolf Processing, Cordova School District, Cordova Hospital, the City, and the Department of Transportation. Additionally, the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Coast Guard maintain personnel in Cordova.

A total of 621 commercial fishing permits were held by 343 permit holders in 2000 according to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (ACFEC). At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, 62.2% of the potential labor force was employed, there was a 4.6% unemployment rate, and 3.6% of the population was in the armed forces. A total of 29.1% of the population over 16 years of age was not in the labor force and 7.5% of the population was below the poverty level. The median household income in the same year was $50, 114 and the per capita income was $25,256.

Governance

The City of Cordova was incorporated in July of 1909 and in October of 1960 residents voted to adopt a Home Rule Charter. The City of Cordova has a Council-Manager form of government. The mayor and seven council members are elected officials, each elected to three-year terms. The city manager, city clerk, and the city attorney are appointed by the council. Cordova does not belong to an organized borough; therefore

the city is responsible for many services. The city of Cordova implements a 6% sales tax, 14.0 mills (1.4%) property tax, 6% accommodations tax, and 6% car rental tax. Cordova is a member of the for-profit Native regional corporation Chugach Corporation under the Alaska Natives Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). The Chugach Alaska Corporation Region includes the four communities of Cordova, Seward, Valdez, and Whittier, and the five Native villages of Port Graham, Chenega Bay, Eyak, Nanwalek (English Bay) and Tatitlek. Approximately 550,000 acres of the lands are subsurface estate from the region's Native village surface entitlements. It includes more than 5,000 miles of coastline, at the heart of which lies Prince William Sound. The Native village corporation is the Chenega Corporation, which also has shareholders in Chenega Bay, Anchorage, Valdez, Tatitlek, Talkeetna, other Alaskan cities, Washington, Oregon, Arizona, and several other Lower 48 states. As mentioned above, Cordova has a significant Eyak Athabascan population with an active Village Council. The Native Village of Eyak is federally recognized and eligible for funding and services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) by virtue of their status as an Indian tribe.

The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regional office is in Anchorage, as is the nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office. There is an Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) field office in Cordova.

Facilities

Cordova is accessible only by air and sea. The cost of a roundtrip flight from Cordova to Anchorage is approximately $250 (based on the closest available date to 1 September, 2003). The community is linked directly to the North Pacific Ocean shipping lanes through the Gulf of Alaska and receives year-round barge services and State Ferry service. There is a state-owned and city-operated airport with a 1,840 foot gravel runway. Daily scheduled jet flights and air taxis are available. It is also possible for floatplanes to land at the Lake Eyak seaplane base or the boat harbor. Harbor facilities include a breakwater, dock, small boat harbor with 850 berths, boat launch, boat haul-out, ferry terminal, and marine repair services. Cordova's small boat harbor is one of the state's largest single basin harbors. The port at Cordova consists of three larger docks and the municipal dock is the main commercial port facility in the area. A 48-mile gravel road provides access to the Copper River Delta to the east. However, plans for a highway up the Copper River to connect with the statewide road system have been controversial

Cordova draws water from various lakes and reservoirs in the vicinity and total water storage capacity is 2.1 million gallons. The City operates a piped water and sewer system which is treated before discharge. Over 90% of homes are fully plumbed; others use individual wells and septic systems. A landfill and a sludge disposal are available outside of town. The community participates in recycling and has a household hazardous waste program.

Cordova Electric Cooperative operates a diesel-powered electricity plant, and two hydroelectric plants, one at Humpback Creek and one at Power Creek. Health services are provided by the Cordova Community Medical Center and the Ilanka Health Center operated by the City. Public safety is provided by a city-backed police department. Cordova is within the Cordova City School District and there are two schools in Cordova itself. At Cordova High School 18 teachers instruct 232 students and 17 teachers instruct 225 students at Mount Eccles Elementary. Cordova is developing a tourism industry and there are several businesses that cater to visitors, including at least eight accommodations providers.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Like many towns in the region, the fishing industry is the major component of Cordova's economy. According to the ADF&G, and reported by ACFEC, 621 permits were held by 343 permit holders, and 425 of these were fished in Cordova in 2000. There were 42 vessel owners in the federal fisheries, 328 vessel owners in the salmon fishery and 411 crew members claiming residence. The commercial vessel fleet delivering landings to Cordova was involved in groundfish (74 vessels), sablefish (32 vessels) halibut (81 vessels), and salmon (660 vessels) fisheries. In 2000, there were 4,269.11 tons of federally managed fish, including 530.02 tons of sablefish, 3250.51 tons of other groundfish, 508.58 tons of halibut, and 21,975.02 tons of salmon landed at the docks in Cordova.

Commercial fishing permits are issued according to specifications of species, vessel size, gear type, and fishing area. Permits issued in Cordova for 2000

related to crab, halibut, herring roe, other finfish, other shellfish, sablefish, and salmon.

Crab: One permit was issued for a Dungeness crab pot gear vessel over 60 feet restricted to Yakutat (not fished).

Halibut: There were a total of 64 permits issued for halibut in 2000, 51 of which were fished. Permits for halibut pertained to 36 longline vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (30 fished), 3 mechanical jigs in statewide waters (none fished), and 25 longline vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (21 fished).

Herring: A total of 124 permits were issued for herring roe in Cordova in 2000 (14 fished). Permits issued for herring pertained to 21 purse seine restricted to Prince William Sound (none fished), one purse seine restricted to the Cook Inlet (not fished), 2 purse seine restricted to Kodiak (one fished), one purse seine restricted to the Alaska Peninsula (not fished), 9 purse seine restricted to Bristol Bay (six fished), 2 gillnets restricted to Southeast Alaska (one fished), 20 gillnets limited to Prince William Sound (none fished), one gillnet restricted to Kodiak (not fished), 5 gillnets restricted to security cove (one fished), 9 gillnets in Bristol Bay (5 fished), one gillnet restricted to Norton Sound (not fished), 2 herring food/bait purse seine restricted to Prince William Sound (none fished), and 50 permits to harvest herring spawn on kelp in northern southeast Alaska (none fished).

Other finfish: One experimental/special permit was issued for freshwater finfish with unspecified gear in statewide waters (not fished).

Other Groundfish: There were 54 permits issued for groundfish excluding sablefish in Cordova in 2000, 19 of which were actually fished. Permits issued for groundfish pertained to 2 lingcod longline under 60 feet in statewide waters (none fished), one lingcod dinglebar troll in statewide waters, 4 lingcod mechanical jigs in statewide waters (2 fished), one lingcod pot gear vessel over 60 feet long in statewide waters, 21 miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (7 fished), one miscellaneous saltwater finfish otter trawl in statewide waters (not fished), 3 miscellaneous saltwater finfish pot gear vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (one fished), 13 miscellaneous saltwater finfish mechanical jigs statewide waters (2 fished), 5 miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (3 fished), and 3 miscellaneous saltwater finfish pot gear vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters.

Other Shellfish: One permit was issued for an octopi/squid longline vessel under 60 feet in statewide waters (not fished), and one for a shrimp pot gear vessel under 60 feet limited to Prince William Sound (not fished).

Sablefish: There were 11 permits issued for sablefish in Cordova in 2000, 10 of which were fished. Permits issued for sablefish pertained to one fixed gear vessel of maximum 90 feet in Prince William Sound, 5 fixed gear vessels of maximum 50 feet in Prince William Sound, one fixed gear vessel of maximum 35 feet in Prince William Sound (not fished), and 4 longline vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters.

Salmon: There were 364 permits issued in Cordova for Salmon in 2000, 331 of which were fished. Permits issued for salmon pertained to three purse seine in southeast waters, 95 purse seine in Prince William Sound (65 fished), one purse seine in Chignik, 3 drift nets in Bristol bay (12 fished), one set gillnet in Yakutat (not fished), 9 set gillnets in Prince William Sound, 3 set gillnets in Bristol Bay, one set gillnet in Kotzebue (not fished), one set gillnet in Norton Sound (not fished), and one hand troll in statewide waters (not fished).

In 2000 there were eight fish processing plants operating in Cordova with the capacities to process halibut, sablefish, other groundfish, and salmon. Some of the larger companies operating processing facilities, such as North Pacific Processors and Ocean Beauty Seafoods, also contributed to the port facilities available at the docks.

Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation is a non-profit corporation founded in 1974 by a local commercial fishermen's organization with its headquarters in Cordova. Four remote hatcheries in Prince William Sound are operated by the Corporation and benefit commercial, sport fishing, personal and subsistence users.

It was announced in July 2003 that Cordova would receive $101,644 worth of federal salmon disaster funds to be distributed to several municipalities statewide which have been affected by low salmon prices in order to compensate for consequent losses of salmon taxes or raw fish taxes. The disbursement of these disaster funds illustrates state and federal responses to communities and boroughs affected by recent falling salmon prices. Communities and boroughs are ultimately responsible for the allocation

of the funds. Further disbursements are expected in the future to offset the costs of basic public services for which fish taxes become insufficient. In 2002, the City of Cordova received $1,592 as part of a federal fund set up in accordance with the Endangered Species Act to offset costs to fisheries and communities due to Steller sea lion protection regulations.

Sport Fishing

Most of the fresh waters of Prince William Sound, particularly those in the Cordova area, are open the entire year to salmon fishing. Chinook salmon, silver salmon, sockeye salmon, halibut, rockfish and lingcod are other popular sportfishing species found in the marine waters of Orca Inlet, Simpson Bay, Sheep Bay and as close as Spike Island, located just outside the harbor. Prince William Sound is closed to all crab fishing, but is open to shrimping by permit between April 15 through September 15 and other marine invertebrate collecting. In total there were 15 businesses involved in saltwater sportfishing in Cordova in 2002 and 15 engaged in freshwater sportfishing. There were 3,215 sport fishing licenses sold in Cordova in 2000, 1,251 of which were sold to Alaska residents.

Subsistence Fishing

Data from 1997 compiled on behalf of the ADF&G's Division of Subsistence provides useful information about subsistence practices in Cordova. About 97.6% of households participated in the use of subsistence resources, including harvesting, sharing, and consuming resources, illustrating the importance of subsistence to life in the community. Approximately 88.5% of the total population used salmon and 84.6% used non-salmon fish (herring, herring roe, smelt, bass, cod, flounder, greenling, halibut, rockfish, sablefish, sculpin, shark, wolfish, sole, char, grayling, and trout), many fewer households, only 11%, used marine mammals and about half the households in the community, 51.7%, used marine invertebrates.

The average per capita harvest for 1997 was 179.43 lbs. The composition of the total subsistence harvest can be shown by the percentages of the resources which demonstrate the amount of each resource category used by the community relative to other resources categories. The total subsistence harvest was composed of 34.87% salmon, non-salmon fish made up 42.61%, land mammals 54.49%, marine mammals 3.64%, birds and eggs accounted for 2.23%, marine invertebrates for 5.52% and vegetation made up 8.36%. The wild food harvest in Cordova made up 83% of the recommended dietary allowance of protein in 1993 (corresponding to 49 g of protein per day or 0.424 lbs of wild food per day) (Wolfe, Division of Subsistence, ADF&G).

Only one permit was held by a household in Cordova for subsistence fishing of salmon according to the ADF&G's Division of Subsistence records from 1999. The permit was used solely for sockeye salmon. Residents of Cordova and members of the Native Village of Eyak, an Alaska Native Tribe, who hold a valid Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC) issued by NMFS, are eligible to harvest subsistence halibut. These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.

Additional Information

Cordova is locally famous for two festivals, the Copper River Salmon Festival and the Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival. The former, held in early June, celebrates the beginning of the Alaska salmon run. The ferries servicing the Alaska Marine Highway and the daily jet service carriers which fly between Cordova and Anchorage, Juneau and Seattle all offer special festival timetables and fares. The Shorebirds Festival occurs a month earlier and attracts avid professional and amateur bird watchers to the spectacle of as may as 5 million shorebirds pausing on their mass migration northwards.

Cordova also hosts the Iceworm Festival in February, the only known celebration of the glacial iceworm in the world. The Iceworm Festival includes a parade, talent shows, arts & crafts exhibits, and the Miss Iceworm Pageant and Coronation.

Fritz Creek (return to communities)

People and Place

Location

Fritz Creek is situated on the Kenai Peninsula, seven miles northeast of Homer off the Sterling Highway. It is located on the north shore of Kachemak Bay and lies at the foot of Bald Mountain. The area encompasses 54.4 square miles of land but does not include any water area.

Demographic Profile

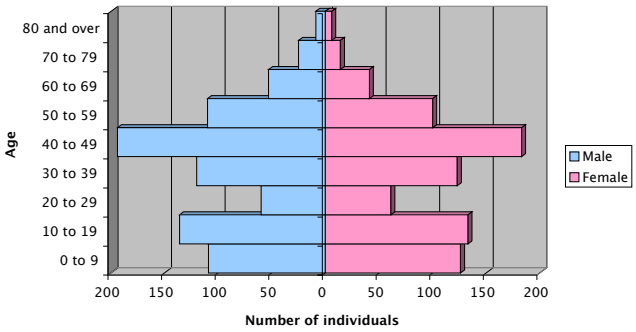
According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of Fritz Creek was 1,603. Total population numbers have increased substantially since the 1970's when the community was established. By 1980, the community had 404 members and by 1990 the population had reached 1,426. The genders were in almost equal balance. The racial composition of the population included 93.0% White, 2.4% Alaska Native or American Indian, 0.2% Black, and 0.6% Asian, and 0.9% classified themselves as 'Other'. Overall, 3.1% of the population identified with two or more races. A total of 5.1% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. Only 2.2% of the population identified as Hispanic. The median age was 38.1 years which is slightly above the national median of 35.3 years. According to the census data 31.5% of the population was under 19 years of age while only 14.8% of the population was over 55 years of age.

There were 854 housing units in Fritz Creek; 152 were vacant due to seasonal use. At the time of 2000 Census, none of the population lived in group quarters. About 93.4% of the population had a high school diploma or higher, while 34.5% had a bachelor's degree or higher.

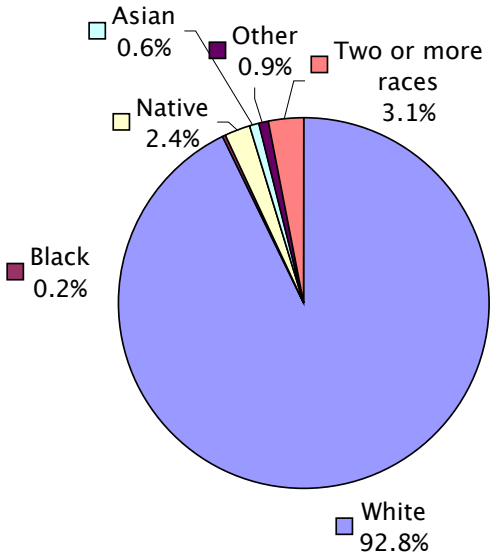
History

Due to its maritime climate and easy access, south-central Alaska has long been a gathering place for Native Alaskans from diverse places. Human occupation and migration across the Kenai Peninsula is known to date from some several thousand years ago at places such as Beluga Point along the Seward Highway. The area around Kachemak Bay is historically considered to be Dena'ina Athabascan Indian territory, although archaeological sites suggest the presence of Pacific Eskimo or Alutiiq people as early as 4,500 years ago

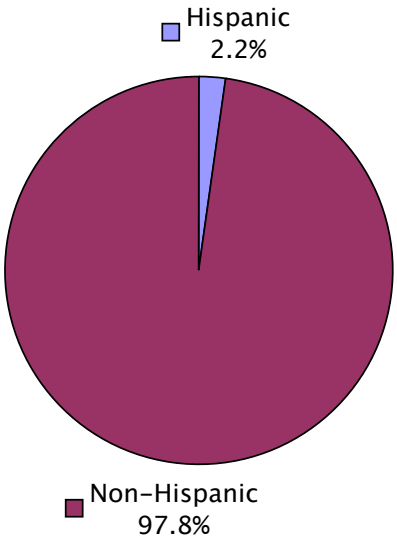
2000 Population Structure
Fritz Creek
Data source: US Census



2000 Racial Structure
Fritz Creek
Data source: US Census

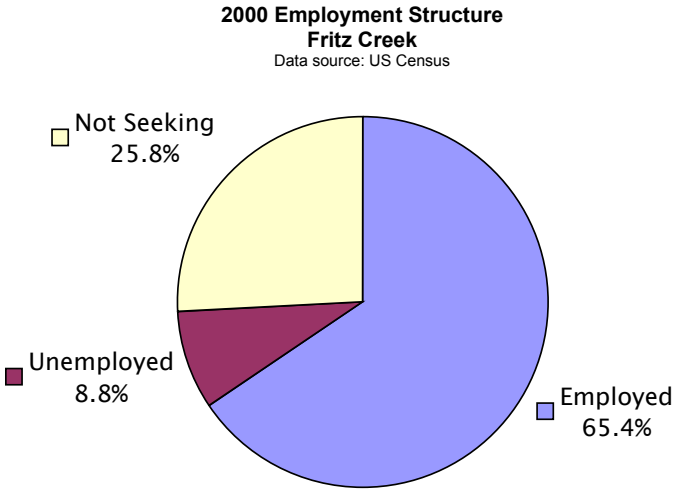


2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Fritz Creek
Data source: US Census



(Halliday 1998: 183).

Fritz Creek itself was named by R.W. Stone of the U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey in 1904. Russian, and subsequently American, attempts to exploit Kachemak Bay coal in the area in late 1800's proved to be unsuccessful (Alaska Historical Commission). Fritz Creek is the "End of The Road," and is also known as the "Cosmic Hamlet by the Sea." It was popularized by Tom Bodett in his series of books about life at the "End of the Road." Fritz Creek, like Halibut Cove, is now a mecca for famous and aspiring artists, as well as those who enjoy the wilderness experience.



Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Fritz Creek is intimately linked with that of nearby Homer which is relatively diverse, though predominantly based on fishing and fish processing.

A total of 26 commercial fishing permits were held by 13 permit holders in 2000 according to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (ACFEC). In 2000, 71.7% of the potential labor force was employed and 9.6% were unemployed. A high percentage, 28.3%, of the population over 16 years of age was not in the labor force but may be largely seasonally involved with the commercial fishing industry, and 9.6% of the population lived below the poverty level. The median household income in the same year was $41, 400 and the per capita income was $18, 937.

Governance

Fritz Creek is an unincorporated city within the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Because of the city's status as unincorporated, there are neither city officials nor borough officials located in the city, nor are there municipal or borough finances dispersed to the city. Fritz Creek is not a member of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), therefore no land was allotted under the Act, and is not a federally recognized Native village nor does it have a Native village corporation or belong to a regional Native corporation.

The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regional office is in Homer, as is the nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Fritz Creek is readily accessible by road along the Sterling Highway which connects the community to Anchorage. Airport, harbor, and docking facilities are available at nearby Homer. The community is linked indirectly to the network of communities visited by ferries on the Alaska Marine Highway and receives year-round barge services and State Ferry service. The city-owned airport in Homer has a 6,700foot paved runway, as well as a seaplane base. Round trip flights between Homer and Anchorage cost approximately $200-250. Homer also has a deep-water dock capable of accommodating 340 foot-long vessels and a boat harbor with moorage for 920 vessels.

The vast majority of people living in Fritz Creek hauls water or has water delivered. Some residences and buildings have individual wells. Most residences have septic systems for sewage disposal and the remainder use out houses. Over half of all residences are fully plumbed. The Borough does provide a refuse transfer station in Anchor Point, or sanitation facilities in Homer are used. Electricity is provided by the Homer Electric Association. There are no local health care facilities or public safety providers. Fritz Creek is within the Kenai Peninsula School District and there are two schools in Fritz Creek itself. At Kachemak Selo School, 79 students in grades K-12 are instructed by 6 teachers, At Voznesenka Elementary School 137 students are instructed by 10 teachers.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

According to the ADF&G, and reported by ACFEC, 26 permits were held by 13 permit holders in Fritz Creek in 2000, but only 18 permits were fished. There were 2 vessel owners in the federal fisheries, 6 vessel owners in the salmon fishery and 23 crew members claiming residence in Fritz Creek. There are no fish processing plants, and no fish landing in the community.

Commercial fishing permits are issued according to specifications of species, vessel size, gear type, and fishing area. Permits issued in Fritz Creek for 2000 related to halibut, herring, sablefish, other groundfish, crab, and salmon.

Halibut: There were a total of six permits issued for halibut in Fritz Creek, three of which were fished. Permits for halibut pertained to one hand troll (not fished), 3 longline vessels under 60 feet (2 fished), and two longline vessels over 60 feet (one fished). All permits designated for halibut were for statewide waters.

Herring: There were two permits issued for the herring fishery pertaining to herring spawn on kelp in Prince William Sound (none fished).

Sablefish: There were two permits issued for the sablefish fishery pertaining to longline vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters

Other groundfish: A total of nine permits were issued for other groundfish, only seven of which were fished. Permits pertained to two lingcod mechanical jigs in statewide waters, one miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline vessel under 60 feet in statewide waters, three miscellaneous saltwater finfish pot gear vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (two fished), and three miscellaneous saltwater finfish mechanical jigs in statewide waters (two fished).

Crab: Three permits were issued in for crab, none of which were fished. All permits pertained to Dungeness pot gear vessels over 60 feet restricted to the Cook Inlet (none fished)

Other shellfish: Only one permit for other shellfish was fished. Permits issued in Seward pertained to one shrimp pot gear vessel under 60 feet in westward waters (not fished), one shrimp pot gear in south-east waters (not fished), one shrimp pot gear vessel over 60 feet in westward waters (not fished), one sea cucumber diving gear permit for statewide waters but excluding southeast waters, and one sea urchin diving gear permit for statewide waters, excluding southeast waters (not fished).

Salmon: A total of four permits were issued for the salmon fishery. Six permits were fished, which may reflect the ability of fishing permit holders to hold emergency transfer permits. Salmon permits pertained to drift gillnets restricted to Prince William Sound (one fished), two drift gillnets in Cook Inlet (three fished), one drift gillnet in Bristol Bay, and one power gurdy troll in statewide waters.

It was announced in July 2003 that the Kenai Peninsula Borough, in which Fritz Creek is located, has been allocated $623,295 worth of federal salmon disaster funds to be distributed to several municipalities statewide which have been affected by low salmon prices in order to compensate for consequent losses of salmon taxes or raw fish taxes. The disbursement of these disaster funds illustrates state and federal responses to communities and boroughs affected by these falling salmon prices. Communities and boroughs are ultimately responsible for the allocation of the funds. Further disbursements are expected in the future to offset the costs of basic public services for which fish taxes become insufficient. In 2002, the Kenai Peninsula received $810 as part of a federal fund set up in accordance with the Endangered Species Act to offset costs to fisheries and communities due to Steller sea lion protection regulations.

Sport Fishing

There are a few charter sport fishing companies operating in Fritz Creek. Easy access to Anchorage makes Fritz Creek a frequently chosen tourist destination. Nearby Homer is a major sport fishing destination and may inspire people to visit surrounding communities such as Fritz Creek for a less crowded scene. Kachemak Bay is considered to be one of Alaska's most popular destinations for halibut fishing, with frequent catches purportedly weighing 100 to 200 lbs. In fact, halibut, weighing up to 350 lbs are fished between June and September.

Subsistence Fishing

According to 2003-2004 Federal subsistence fishery regulations, Fritz Creek is designated as a Federal non-rural area. Correspondingly, residents of Fritz Creek are not eligible for subsistence fishing permits and are not permitted to harvest fish or shellfish under Federal subsistence regulations.

Data from 1998 compiled on behalf of the ADF&G's Division of Subsistence provides useful information about subsistence practices in Fritz Creek. Records describe the subsistence patterns for all 100% of households that participated in the use of subsistence resources, including harvesting, sharing, and consuming resources, illustrating the importance of subsistence to life in the community. Of the total population, 93.8% used salmon, 90.8% used non-salmon fish (herring, herring roe, smelt, cod, flounder, greenling, halibut, rockfish, sablefish, shark, sole, char, grayling, trout, and whitefish), many fewer households, only 3.1%, used marine mammals, and a high percentage, 76.9%, used marine invertebrates.

The average per capita harvest for the year 1998 was 105.35 pounds. The composition of the total subsistence harvest can be shown by the percentages of the resources that were used which demonstrate the amount of each resource category used by the community relative to other resources categories. The total subsistence harvest was composed of 29.7% salmon, non-salmon fish made up 28.34%, land mammals 27.93%, no significant amount of marine mammals was used, birds and eggs accounted for only 1.64% of the total subsistence harvest, marine invertebrates for 7.15%, and vegetation made up 5.24%.

Valdez (return to communities)

People and Place

Location

The community of Valdez is situated on the far north shore of Port Valdez, a deep water fjord in north Prince William Sound. Importantly, it is also the northernmost ice-free port at the southern terminus of the Trans-Alaska oil pipeline. The area encompasses 222.0 square miles of land and 55.1 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

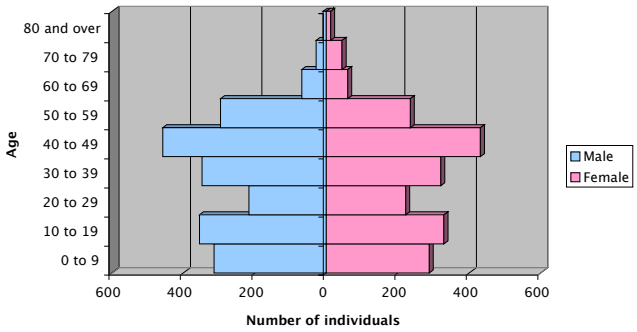
According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of Valdez was 4,036. Total population numbers have increased steadily over the past century, with the greatest growth occurring since the 1960s. The gender ratio was skewed towards males in 2000 at 51.9% versus 48.1% female. The racial composition of the population included 83.6% White, 7.2% Alaska Native or American Indian, 2.2% Asian, 0.4% Black, 0.4% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, and 1.4% classified themselves as 'Other'. Overall, 4.7% of the population identified with two or more races. A total of 10.2% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. In 2000, 4.0% of the population identified as Hispanic. The median age was 35.4 years which is slightly above the national median of 35.3 years. According to census data, 31.9% of the population was under 19 years of age while only 10.1% of the population was over 55 years of age.

There were 1,494 housing units in Valdez, 151 that were vacant, with 46 vacant due to seasonal use. At the time of the 2000 Census, only 1.4% of the population lived in group quarters. About 90.8% of the population had a high school diploma or higher, while 21.9% had a bachelor's degree or higher.

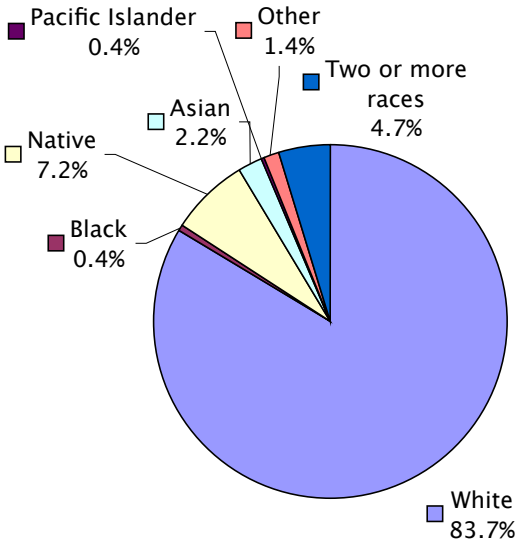
History

The Alutiiq people were the dominant culture around the Valdez area, settling Prince William Sound more than 5,000 years ago. Eyak Athabascans migrated down the Copper River and were also present in the eastern portion of the region. There is a great amount of temporal depth in the human inhabitation of the Sound. In fact, archaeological evidence suggests that Chugach people occupied the area from the time when it was still largely covered by glaciers during the

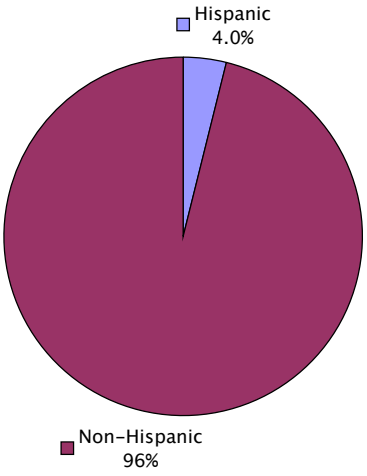
2000 Population Structure
Valdez
Data source: US Census



2000 Racial Structure
Valdez
Data source: US Census

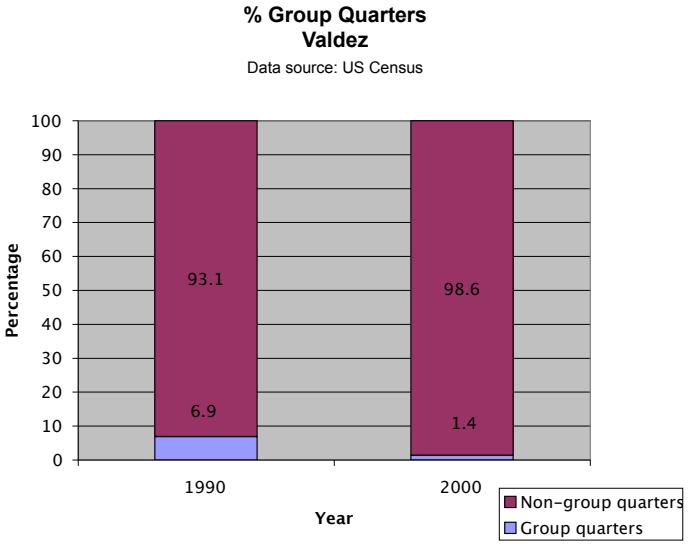


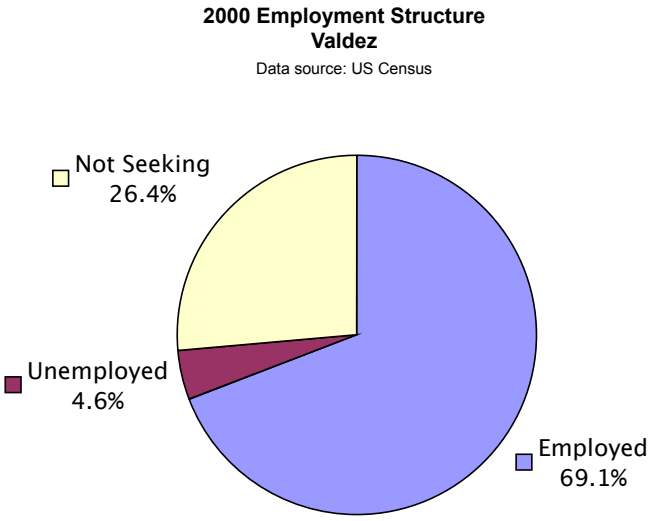
2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Valdez
Data source: US Census



last ice age. The Chugach were the first Alaskans to meet Vitus Bering, the European explorer for whom the Bering Strait is named, the man who 'discovered' Alaska at Kayak Island under the auspices of the Russian flag. Russian culture has played an important role in Chugach history, beginning with the founding of Fort Saint Constantine at Nuchek Village in 1793. Subsequently explorers, traders, entrepreneurs, fishermen, gold miners, and missionaries from around the globe have left their mark on the history of the region.

In 1790, the Port of Valdez was named by Don Salvador Fidalgo for the celebrated Spanish naval officer Antonio Valdes y Basan. Because of its convenient ice-free port and well protected harbor, a town developed just over a century later, and was incorporated soon after, which became a debarkation point for prospective miners heading off to the Eagle Mining District and the Klondike gold fields. Before long, Valdez had become a major supply hub for the gold mining region. The devastating Good Friday earthquake in 1964, with a magnitude of 9.2 and with an epicenter only a few miles outside of the town, was the largest earthquake on record in the U.S. and resulted in a significant loss of waterfront property and several lives in Valdez. The community was rebuilt on more stable bedrock a few miles to the west. This prime location set the stage for Valdez's profitable future as the terminus for the Trans-Alaskan oil pipeline which was constructed in the 1970s. The Exxon Valdez oil spill in March of 1989, however, severely damaged the long-term economy and the environment and had serious political, moral, and cultural ramifications. The oil spill once again put Valdez on the map for the largest disaster of its kind in U.S. history. During the cleanup process, centered in Valdez, the population of the town tripled.





Infrastructure

Current Economy

Seasonal commercial fishing and tourism form the economic base of Valdez. Four fish processors operate in the city and serve the fleet. Salmon is a major component of the harvest and the current drop in salmon prices has adversely affected the economy. A total of 63 commercial fishing permits were held by 42 permit holders in 2000 according to ACFEC. The oil industry is a further significant enterprise. Four of the top 10 employers in Valdez are directly connected to the oil terminus. Valdez has one of the highest municipal tax bases in Alaska as the southern terminus and loading point of oil extracted from Prudhoe Bay on the North Slope. Additionally, city, state, and federal agencies combined provide significant employment. Subsistence is also vital to people of Valdez.

At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, 68.3% of the potential labor force was employed and there was a 4.5% unemployment rate. Only 26.1% of the population over 16 years of age was not in the labor force and 6.2% of the population lived below the poverty level. The median household income in the same year was $66, 532 and the per capita income was $27, 341.

Governance

The City of Valdez was incorporated in June 1901 and in February 1961 residents voted to adopt a

Home Rule Charter. The City of Valdez has a Council-Manager form of government. The mayor and six council members are elected officials, each elected to two-year terms. The city manager, the city clerk, and the city attorney are appointed by the council. Valdez does not belong to an organized Alaskan borough; therefore, the city is responsible for many services. The City of Valdez does not implement a sales tax, but does establish the mill rate for taxation on property, 20.0 mills property tax (2.0%), and imposes a 6% accommodations tax.

Valdez is a member of the for-profit Native regional corporation, Chugach Alaska Corporation, under the Alaska Natives Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). The Chugach Alaska Corporation Region includes the four communities of Cordova, Seward, Valdez, and Whittier, and the five Native villages of Port Graham, Chenega Bay, Eyak, Nanwalek (English Bay), and Tatitlek. Approximately 550,000 acres of the lands are subsurface estate from the region's Native village surface entitlements. It includes more than 5,000 miles of coastline, at the heart of which lies Prince William Sound. The Valdez Native tribe is the local village council, but is not recognized as an ANCSA village. The Valdez Native Association is the village non-profit organization. The Prince William Sound Economic Development Council serves as a forum for the discussion of regional economic issues and community development for the communities of Chenega Bay, Cordova, Tatitlek, Valdez, and Whittier.

The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regional office is in Cordova. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) is Anchorage. There is an ADF&G field office in Cordova.

Facilities

Valdez is accessible by road via the Richardson Highway which connects Valdez to Anchorage, Fairbanks and Canada, and also by air and sea, along the Alaska Marine Highway and via ferries between Whittier, Cordova, Kodiak, Seward, Homer, Bartlett and Tustumena. The cost of a round trip flight from Valdez to Anchorage is about $250.00 (based on the closest available date to 1 September, 2003). The airport, with a 6,500 foot paved runway, is operated by the state. The world's largest floating concrete dock is located in the port of Valdez along with numerous other facilities for cargo and commercial ships. The small harbor at Valdez can accommodate 546 commercial fishing boats and recreational vessels.

Water in Valdez is supplied primarily from wells and stored in five 750, 000 gallon reservoirs from where it is piped throughout the city. Sewage is processed and released into a secondary treatment lagoon. Almost all houses are plumbed, and many have their own wells and septic tanks. The city operates a landfill and in 1998 an oil and hazardous waste recycling center was completed.

The local utility company, Copper Valley Electric, purchases power from the Four Dam Pool Power Agency and the Petro Star Refinery, and also owns diesel plants in Valdez and nearby Glennallen. Health services are provided by the Valdez Community Hospital, Valdez Medical Clinic, and the Valdez Native Tribe Clinic. Public safety is provided by a city-backed police department and state troopers. Valdez is within the Valdez City School District and there are four schools in Valdez itself. At Valdez High School 18 teachers instruct 298 students, 11 teachers instruct 136 students at George H. Gilson Junior High School, 27 teachers instruct 422 students at Hermon Hutchens Elementary School, and 1 teacher instructs 123 students through Chugach Extension Correspondence School. Valdez has a well developed tourism industry and there are several businesses including at least seven accommodation providers which cater to visitors.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing is of great import to the economy of Valdez. According to the ADF&G, and reported by ACFEC, 63 permits were held by 42 permit holders but only 30 permits were fished in Valdez in 2000. There were 9 vessel owners in the federal fisheries, 25 vessel owners in the salmon fishery, and 69 crew members claiming residence in Valdez. The commercial vessel fleet delivering landings to Valdez was involved in halibut (11 vessels), sablefish (three vessels), other ground fish (seven vessels), and salmon (524 vessels) fisheries in 2000. In accordance with confidentiality regulations, landings data for the community are unavailable.

Commercial fishing permits are issued according to specifications of species, vessel size, gear type, and fishing area. Permits issued in Valdez for 2000 related to halibut, herring roe, sablefish, other groundfish, shellfish (excluding crab), and salmon.

Halibut: There were a total of 16 permits issued for halibut, nine of which were fished. Permits for halibut pertained to 9 longline vessels under 60 feet (5 fished), and 7 longline vessels over 60 feet (4 fished). All permits designated for halibut were for statewide waters.

Herring: There were a total of four permits issued for the herring fishery, none of which were fished that year. Permits for herring roe pertained to one purse seine limited to Prince William Sound (not fished), one gillnet restricted to Norton Sound (not fished) and two permits for harvesting herring spawn on kelp in Prince William Sound (none fished).

Sablefish and other groundfish: Two sablefish permits were issued for fixed gear vessels of maximum 50 feet length (one fished). A total of eight permits were issued for other groundfish (none fished). Permits pertained to two lingcod longline vessels under 60 feet for statewide waters (none fished), four miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (none fished), one miscellaneous saltwater finfish pot gear vessel under 60 feet in statewide waters (not fished), and one miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline vessel over 60 feet in statewide waters (not fished).

Shellfish: One permit was issued in Valdez for a shrimp pot gear vessel under 60 feet restricted to Prince William Sound (not fished).

Salmon: A total of 32 permits were issued for the salmon fishery, none of which were fished. Salmon permits pertained to 17 purse seine restricted to Prince William Sound (10 fished), 10 drift gillnets restricted to Prince William Sound (7 fished), one drift gillnet limited to Cook Inlet, 2 drift gillnets for Bristol Bay, one gillnet for Bristol Bay (not fished), and hand troll for statewide waters (not fished).

Sea Hawk Seafoods operates processing facilities in Valdez with the capacity to process halibut, groundfish, and salmon. Peter Pan Seafoods processes these species as well as sablefish. The Waterkist Corporation processes salmon. These processors are significant seasonal employers and providers of harbor and portside facilities. Commercial fisheries were very hard hit by the Exxon Valdez disaster in 1989 (see Additional Information below).

It was announced in July 2003 that Valdez would receive $7,759 worth of federal salmon disaster funds to be distributed to several municipalities statewide which have been affected by low salmon prices in order to compensate for consequent losses of salmon taxes or raw fish taxes. The disbursement of these disaster funds illustrates state and federal responses to communities and boroughs affected by recent falling salmon prices. Communities and boroughs are ultimately responsible for the allocation of the funds. Further disbursements are expected in the future to offset the costs of basic public services for which fish taxes become insufficient. In 2002 Valdez did not receive allocations from a federal fund set up in accordance with the Endangered Species Act to offset costs to fisheries and communities due to Steller sea lion protection regulations.

Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation is a non-profit corporation founded in 1974 by a local commercial fishermen's organization with headquarters in Cordova but it is also active in Valdez. Four remote hatcheries in Prince William Sound operated by the Corporation benefit commercial, sport fishing, personal use, and subsistence users.

Sport Fishing

Most of the fresh waters of Prince William Sound are open the entire year to salmon fishing. Chinook salmon, silver salmon, sockeye salmon, halibut, rockfish, and lingcod are other popular sportfishing species found in the nearby marine waters. Prince William Sound is closed to all crab fishing, but is open to shrimping by permit between April 15 through September 15 and to collecting other marine invertebrates. In total there were 37 businesses involved in saltwater sport fishing in Valdez in 2002 and 15 engaged in freshwater sport fishing. A total of 8,600 sport fishing licenses were sold, 3170 to Alaska residents. The high numbers of licenses testifies to Valdez's popular sport fishing and indicates that the waters around Valdez are international destinations for sport fishers. The local chamber of commerce hosts three fishing derbies during the summer, giving away $10,000 first-place prizes in both the halibut and silver salmon derbies.

Subsistence Fishing

According to 2003-2004 Federal subsistence fishery regulations, Valdez is designated as a Federal nonrural area. Correspondingly, residents of Valdez are not eligible for subsistence fishing permits and are not permitted to harvest fish or shellfish under Federal subsistence regulations.

Data from 1992 compiled on behalf of the

ADF&G's Division of Subsistence provides useful information about subsistence practices in the past in Valdez. Records describe the subsistence patterns for all 97% of households which participated in the use of subsistence resources, including harvesting, sharing and consuming resources, illustrating the importance of subsistence to life in the community. Of the total population, 83% used salmon and 81% used non-salmon fish (herring, herring roe, smelt, bass, cod, eel, flounder, greenling, halibut, rockfish, sculpin, skates, sole, wolfish, char, grayling, pike, whitefish, sablefish, trout), many fewer households, only 2%, used marine mammals and nearly half of the households in Valdez, 49%, used marine invertebrates.

The average per capita harvest for1992 was 103.41 lbs. The composition of the total subsistence harvest can be shown by the percentages of the resources which demonstrate the amount of each resource category used by the community relative to other resources categories. The total subsistence harvest was composed of 42.98% salmon, non-salmon fish made up 31.2%, land mammals 18.45%, marine mammals made up a very small percentage, birds and eggs accounted for 1.37% of the total subsistence harvest, marine invertebrates for 3.09% and vegetation made up 2.92%. The wild food harvest in Valdez made up 51% of the recommended dietary allowance of protein in 1993 (corresponding to 49 grams of protein per day or 0.424 pounds of wild food per day).

A total of 41 permits were held by households in Valdez for subsistence fishing of salmon according to ADF&G's Division of Subsistence records from 1999. Sockeye made up the largest proportion of the salmon harvest by a vast majority, followed by chinook. Residents of Valdez were not eligible to harvest subsistence halibut according to regulations implemented through the Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC) program initiated in 2002 and administered by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Additional Information

The Exxon Valdez oil spill is one of the most publicized and studied environmental disasters in history. On March 24, 1989 the oil tanker Exxon Valdez ran aground on Bligh Reef after exiting the Valdez harbor and spilled an estimated 11 million gallons of crude oil across 1,300 miles of coastline. The vast majority of the spill area now appears to have recovered, but small pockets of crude oil remain in some locations, and there is evidence that damage is continuing.

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council was established as part of settlement between the State of Alaska, the Federal Government, and Exxon. The settlement was approved by the U.S. District Court on October 9, 1991 and attempted to resolve various criminal charges against Exxon including damage to natural resources. The settlement includes a criminal plea agreement, criminal restitution orders, and civil settlement, totaling over one billion dollars. Although federal and state governments did settle their civil and criminal litigation with Exxon in the 1990s, claims by private parties continued to be litigated and remained unresolved as of March 2002. The Trustee Council was charged with carrying out research and development on habitat restoration and conservation for the area. The Trustee Council administers projects carried out by NMFS researchers and contractors.

The economic impacts of the spill were researched with federal grants in the years immediately following the spill. The five studies funded by the State of Alaska were: 'a Preliminary Economic Analysis of Recreational Fishing Losses Related to the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill' December 1992, 'Alaska Sportfishing in the Aftermath of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill' December 1992, 'An Assessment of the Impact of he Exxon Valdez Oil Spill on the Alaska Tourism Industry' August 1990, 'Replacement costs of Birds and Mammals' December 1992, 'A Contingent Valuation Study of Lost Passive Use Values Resulting from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill' November 1992.

These and other studies of sport fishing activity and general tourism indicators (such as vacation planning, visitor spending and cancelled reservations) all appeared to indicate decreases in recreational and tourism activity. The fourth study listed above identified a per-unit replacement cost on various seabirds and mammals. The fifth study listed above equated the lost passive use value at $2.8 billion. It is difficult to decipher, however, which long-term changes in the ecosystem are resultant from the oil spill and which may be due to natural causes. Future studies will continue to assess the impacts of residual oil on the environment and economy and a new initiative, the Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring Program, will aim to develop long-term strategies for investigating the relative roles of human and natural factors as sources of change in the ecosystem.

Whittier (return to communities)

People and Place

Location

The City of Whittier is at the head of Passage Canal, a fjord of Western Prince William Sound, and is situated on the northeast shore of the Kenai Peninsula. The townsite lies on the delta mouth on the south side of the Canal, so the port is ice free all year. The area encompasses 12.5 square miles of land and 7.2 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

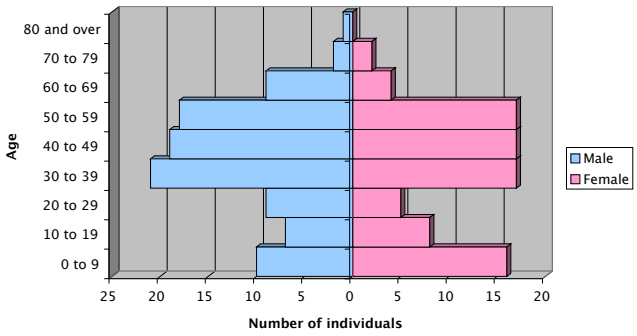
According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of Whittier was 182. Total population numbers have decreased steadily since the population peaked in 1960 at 809 residents. The gender ration in Whittier was skewed toward a larger number of males at 52.7%, while 47.3% of the population of the community was female. The racial composition of the population in 2000 included 79.1 % White, 7.1% Asian, and 5.5% Alaska Native or American Indian. Overall, 8.2% of the population identified with two or more races. A total of 12.6% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. Only 1.1% of the population identified as Hispanic. The median age was 39.3 years, which was above the national median of 35.3 years. According to the census data 22.4% of the population was under 19 years of age while 17.5% of the population was over 55 years of age.

There were 213 housing units in Whittier, 127 of which were vacant, and of these, 79 were vacant due to seasonal use. In 2000, none of the population lived in group quarters. About 87.9% of the population had a high school diploma or higher according to the 2000 census data while 15.9% had a bachelor's degree or higher.

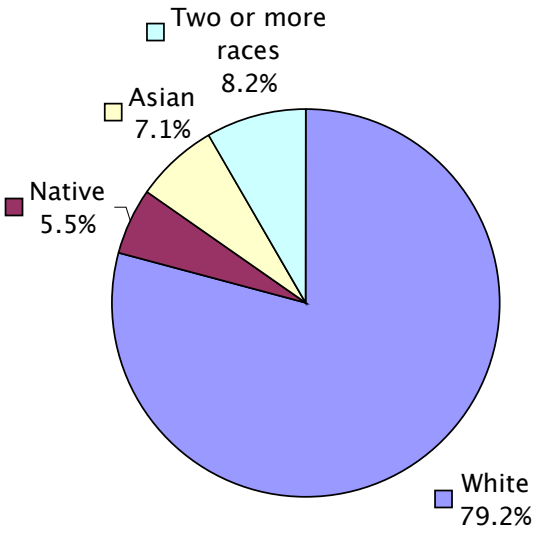
History

The area around Whittier has long been used as fishing grounds. Chugach Indians would portage to Turnagain Arm on fishing expeditions. Whittier sits at a fascinating historical crossroads, traveled for hundreds of years by Natives, traders, explorers, gold rushers, the U.S. military, and now visitors from all over the world. The area surrounding Whittier and Portage Pass had significant roles in the expansion of Russian America, the Alaskan Gold Rush, WWII, and

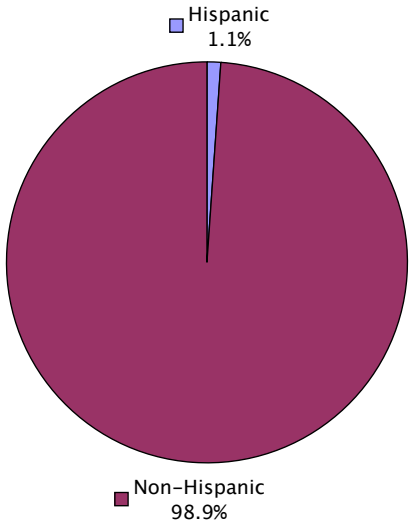
2000 Population Structure
Whittier
Data source: US Census



2000 Racial Structure
Whittier
Data source: US Census

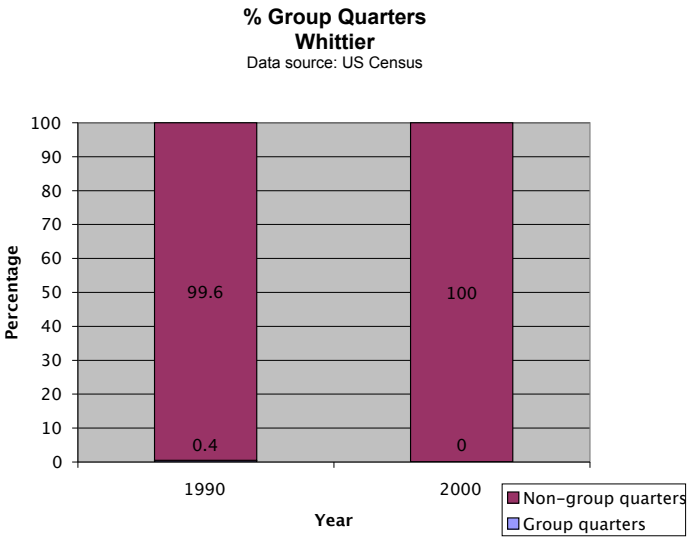


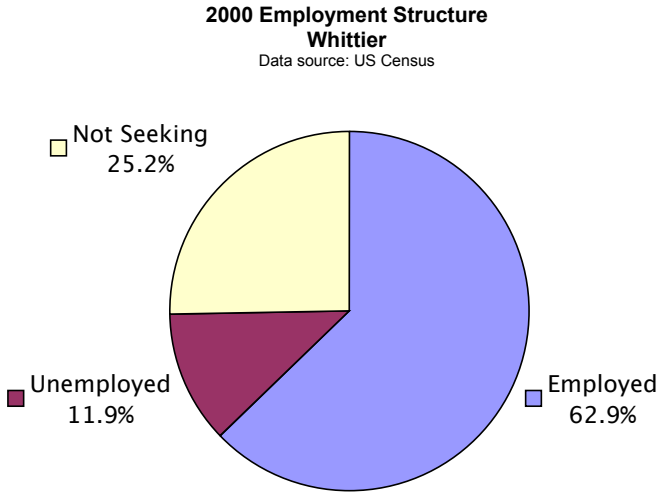
2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Whittier
Data source: US Census



the Great Alaskan Earthquake of 1964.Whittier took its name from the nearby Whittier Glacier which itself was named for the American Poet John Greenleaf Whittier. J.G. Whittier lived during the 1800s and devoted his life to campaigning against slavery in the United States. His poetry reflected his anti-slavery ideology as well as his appreciation for the wonders of the non-human world.

Whittier has been the site of various government projects, and much of the current community infrastructure was built by the U.S. Amy during the first years of WWII. Most residents of Whittier live within with one large, 14-story building, now called the Begich Towers which was originally built as army barracks. The Buckner Building, completed in 1953, has 1,000 apartments and was once the largest building in Alaska. It was called the ‘’city under one roof,” with a hospital, bowling alley, theater, gym, swimming pool, and shops for Army personnel. A port and railroad terminus were also constructed during the year and now make Whittier a valuable port and entrance into the Anchorage and Kenai Peninsula area. The port remained an active Army facility until 1960, but is now becoming increasingly popular as a place for non-residents to moor private fishing boats, especially with the opening in 2000 of the war era Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel, the longest highway tunnel in North America. The tunnel connects Whittier to the Seward Highway and to the rest of south-central Alaska.





Infrastructure

Current Economy

The sources of employment in Whittier are limited; the major employers are the city and a transportation company which transports cargo to anchorage via the railroad that terminates in Whittier. A small but ice-free port serves as a gateway from Whittier to Prince William Sound and tourism is a significant component of the economy. Jobs are also made available on a seasonal basis by Great Pacific Seafoods, Inc. which operates a processing plant in Whittier. A total of 18 commercial fishing permits were held by 9 permit holders in 2000 according to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (ACFEC).

In 2000, 62.9% of the potential labor force was employed and there was an 11.9% unemployment rate. A total of 25.2% of the population over 16 years of age was not in the labor force and 7.1 % of the population lived below the poverty level. The median household income in the same year was $47,500 and the per capita income was $25,700.

Governance

The City of Whittier was incorporated in 1969 and is now a second-class city. The City of Whittier has a council-manager form of government. The mayor and seven council members are elected officials. The mayor of Whittier is responsible for administering the City’s day-to-day operations and carrying out the policy direction of the City Council. Central staff support to the Manager is provided by the city clerk, deputy city clerk, and the finance clerk. Whittier does not belong to an organized borough, so the city is responsible for many services. The City of Whittier implements a 3% sales tax between April and September, and a 5.0 mills (0.5%) property tax. Whittier is a member of the for-profit Native regional corporation Chugach

Corporation under the Alaska Natives Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). The Chugach Alaska Corporation Region includes the four communities of Cordova, Seward, Valdez, and Whittier, and the five Native villages of Port Graham, Chenega Bay, Eyak, Nanwalek (English Bay) and Tatitlek. Approximately 550,000 acres of the lands are subsurface estate from the region's Native village surface entitlements. It includes more than 5,000 miles of coastline, at the heart of which lies Prince William Sound. There is no village corporation or Native council in Whittier.

The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regional office, Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS), and Alaska Department of Fish and Game Regional Office (ADF&G) are in Anchorage.

Facilities

Whittier is accessible by road via the Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel which connects to the Seward Highway, as well as by air and by sea along the Alaska Marine Highway and via ferries between Whittier, Cordova, Kodiak, Seward, Homer, Bartlett, and Tustumena. No airlines provide regular scheduled flights in or out of Whittier. The State-owned 1,480 foot gravel airstrip accommodates charter aircraft, and a City-owned seaplane dock is available for passenger transfer. Whittier is has an ice-free port and a 70 foot city dock. A small boat harbor has slips for 360 fishing, recreation, and charter vessels.

Water is derived from wells and a reservoir. Water storage capacity is 1.2 million gallons. The entire community is served by a piped water and sewer system, and over 95% of homes are fully plumbed. Refuse is hauled out by a private contractor to Anchorage - the landfill has been closed. An oil and hazardous waste recycling center was completed in 1998. Electricity is provided by the Chugach Electric Association. Health services are provided by the city of Whittier Medical Clinic which is operated and owned by the City. Public safety is provided by a city-backed police department and state troopers. Whittier is within the Chugach School District and there is one school in Whittier itself. At Whittier Community School five teachers instruct 40 students. Whittier is developing a tourism industry, which, with the opening of the Anton Anderson memorial Tunnel in 2000 to vehicular traffic means that more and more facilities are available to tourists.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing is an important component of life in Whittier. According to the ADF&G, and reported by the ACFEC, 18 permits were held by 9 permit holders but only 2 permits were fished in Whittier in 2000. There were two vessel owners in the federal fisheries, one vessel owner in the salmon fishery, and 17 crew members claiming residence in Whittier. These low figures, however, are not indicative of the amount of fish which crossed the docks in Whittier as illustrated by the numbers of vessels delivering their catch to the fish processing plant there. The commercial vessel fleet delivering landings to Whittier was involved in halibut (13 vessels), sablefish (nine vessels), other ground fish (11 vessels), and salmon (321 vessels) fisheries in 2000. In accordance with confidentiality regulations, landings data for the community are unavailable.

Commercial fishing permits are issued according to specifications of species, vessel size, gear type, and fishing area. Permits issued in Valdez for 2000 related to halibut, sablefish, other groundfish, shellfish (excluding crab), and salmon.

Halibut: There was one permit for halibut issued pertaining to a longline vessel under 60 feet for statewide waters.

Sablefish and other groundfish: One sablefish permit was issued for fixed gear vessels of maximum 35 feet length in Prince William Sound (not fished). A total of 11 permits were issued for other groundfish (none fished). Permits pertained to one lingcod hand troll for statewide waters (not fished), three miscellaneous saltwater finfish hand trolls in statewide waters (none fished), two miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (none fished), one miscellaneous saltwater finfish pot gear vessel over 60 feet in statewide waters (not fished), three miscellaneous salt water finfish mechanical jigs in statewide waters (none fished), and one miscellaneous salt water finfish longline vessel over 60 feet in statewide waters (not fished).

Shellfish: One permit was issued for a shrimp pot gear vessel under 60 feet restricted to Yakutat (not fished), another was issued for one shrimp beam trawl restricted to Prince William Sound (not fished), and one shrimp pot vessel restricted to southeast waters (not fished).

Salmon: One permit was issued for the salmon fishery pertaining to a drift net in southeast waters.

Great Pacific Seafoods operates a small processing facility in Whittier capable of processing halibut, sablefish, other groundfish, and salmon.

Whittier did not receive federal aid either from the federal salmon disaster funds allotted to several Alaskan communities or from the Steller sea lion funds. Both funds were designed to offset financial losses. In the case of salmon, losses are due to the competition between wild and farmed fish. The Steller sea lion funds were designed to compensate for losses which occur because of regulations put in place to protect the sea lions.

Sport Fishing

In total there were seven saltwater businesses operating in Whittier in 2002 and two businesses engaged in freshwater sport fishing. There was a total of 1, 032 sport fishing licenses sold in Whittier in 2000, 323 of which were sold to Alaska residents, figures which indicate that Whittier is an attractive destination to out-of-state sport fishers.

Subsistence Fishing

Data from 1990 compiled on behalf of the ADF&G's Division for Subsistence provides useful information about subsistence practices in Whittier. Records describe the subsistence patterns for all 93.7% of households which participated in the use of subsistence resources, including harvesting, sharing, and consuming resources, illustrating the importance of subsistence to life in the community. Of the total population, 89.5% used salmon and 82.1% used non-salmon fish (herring, smelt, cod, eel, flounder, greenling, halibut, rockfish, sablefish, wolfish, burbot, char, grayling, and trout), many fewer households, only 7.6%, used marine mammals, and about half of the households in Whittier, 52.4%, used marine invertebrates.

The average per capita harvest for the year 1993 was 79.93 lbs. The composition of the total subsistence harvest can be shown by the percentages of the resources which demonstrate the amount of each resource category used by the community relative to other resources categories. The total subsistence harvest was composed of 42.37% salmon, non-salmon fish made up 24.73%, land mammals 13.73%, marine mammals only 1.19%, birds and eggs accounted for 1.72% of the total subsistence harvest, marine invertebrates for 11.18%, and vegetation made up 5.08%. The wild food harvest in Whittier made up 52% of the recommended dietary allowance of protein in 1990 (corresponding to 49 g of protein per day or 0.424 lbs of wild food per day) (Wolfe, Division of Subsistence, ADF&G).